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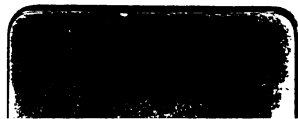
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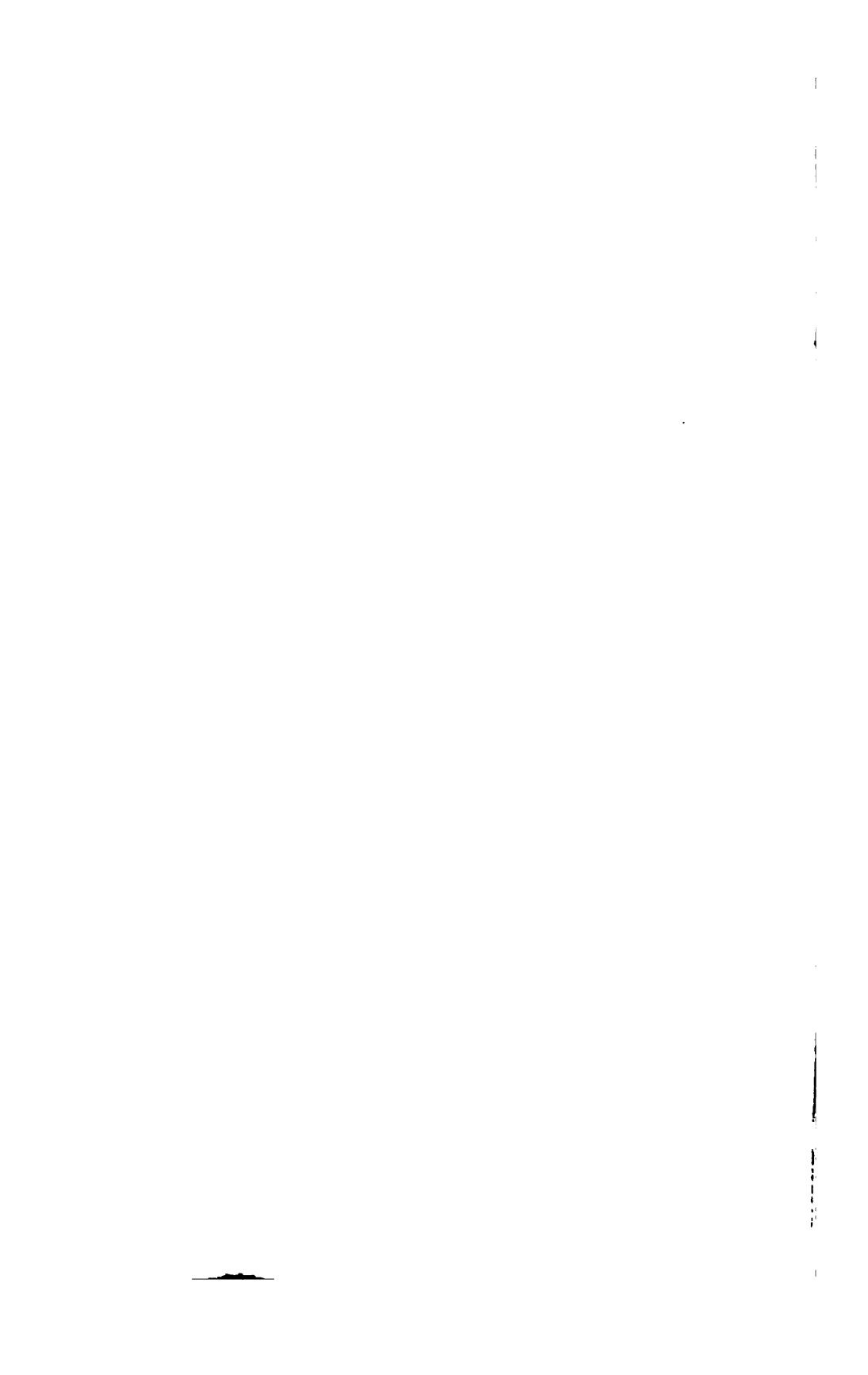


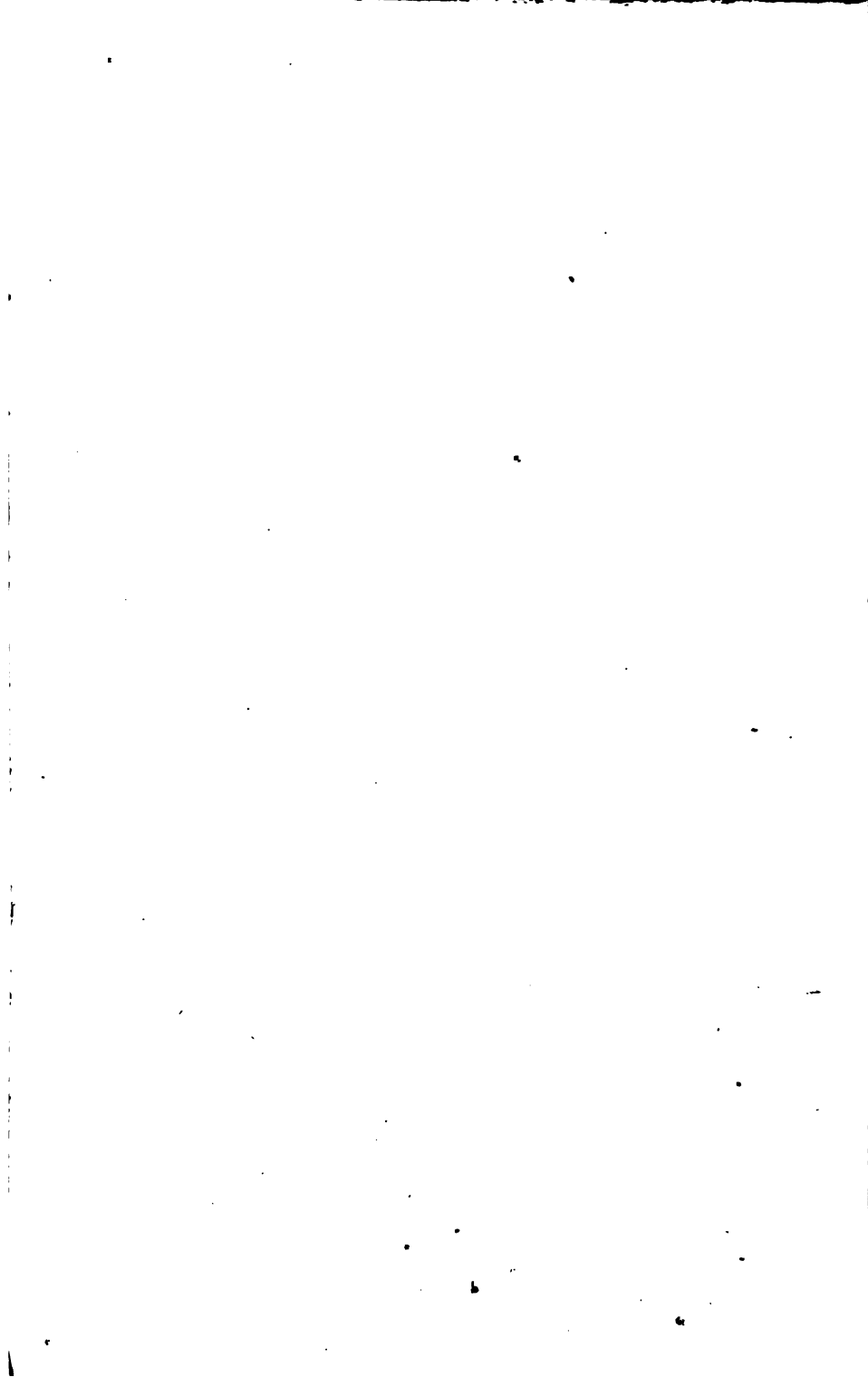
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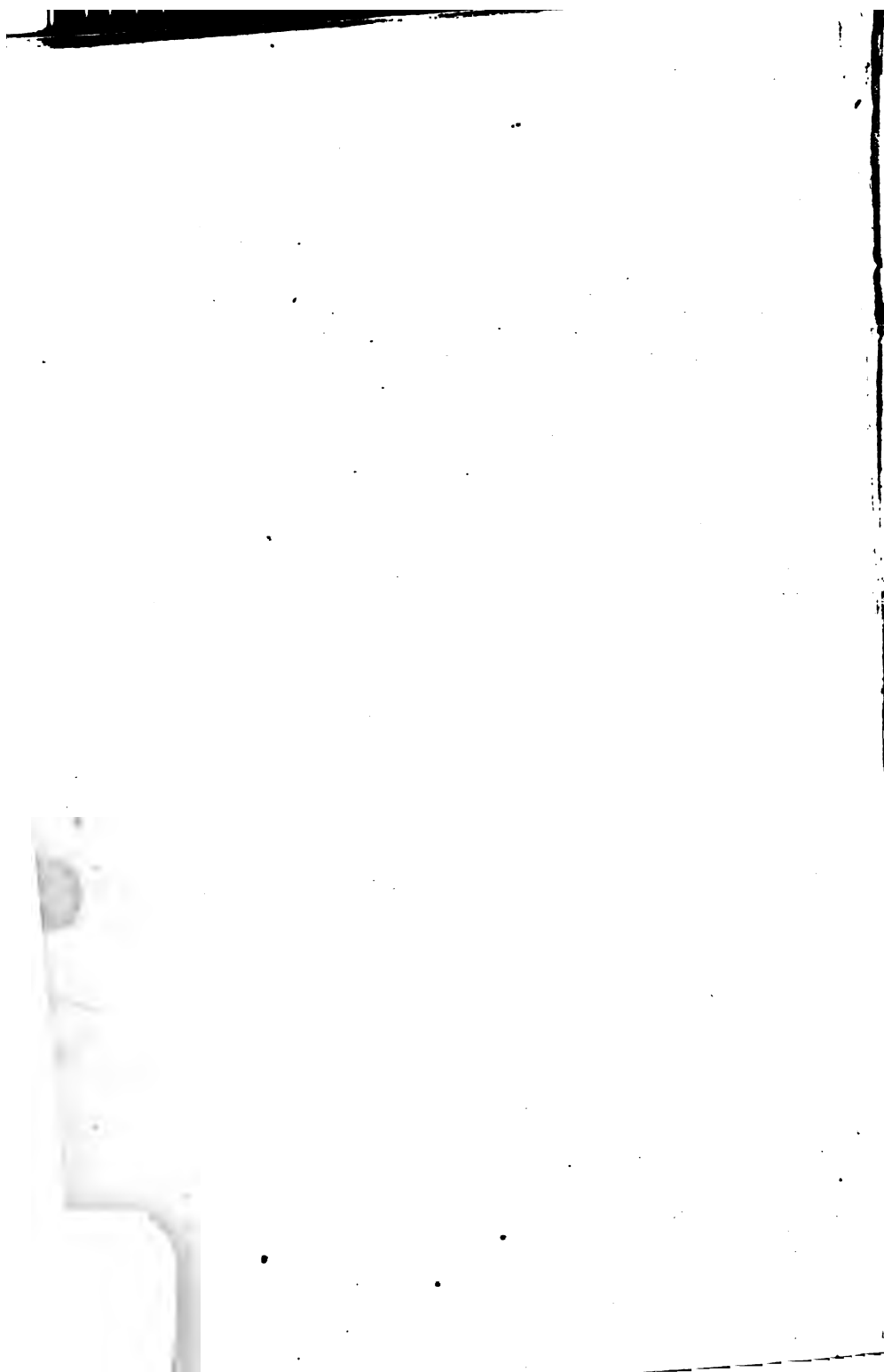
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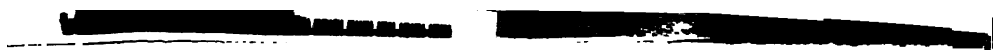


To) H. Dixon, Esq.—  
With the warmest respects,  
— — — — —

MUNDI ET CORDIS

CARMINA.

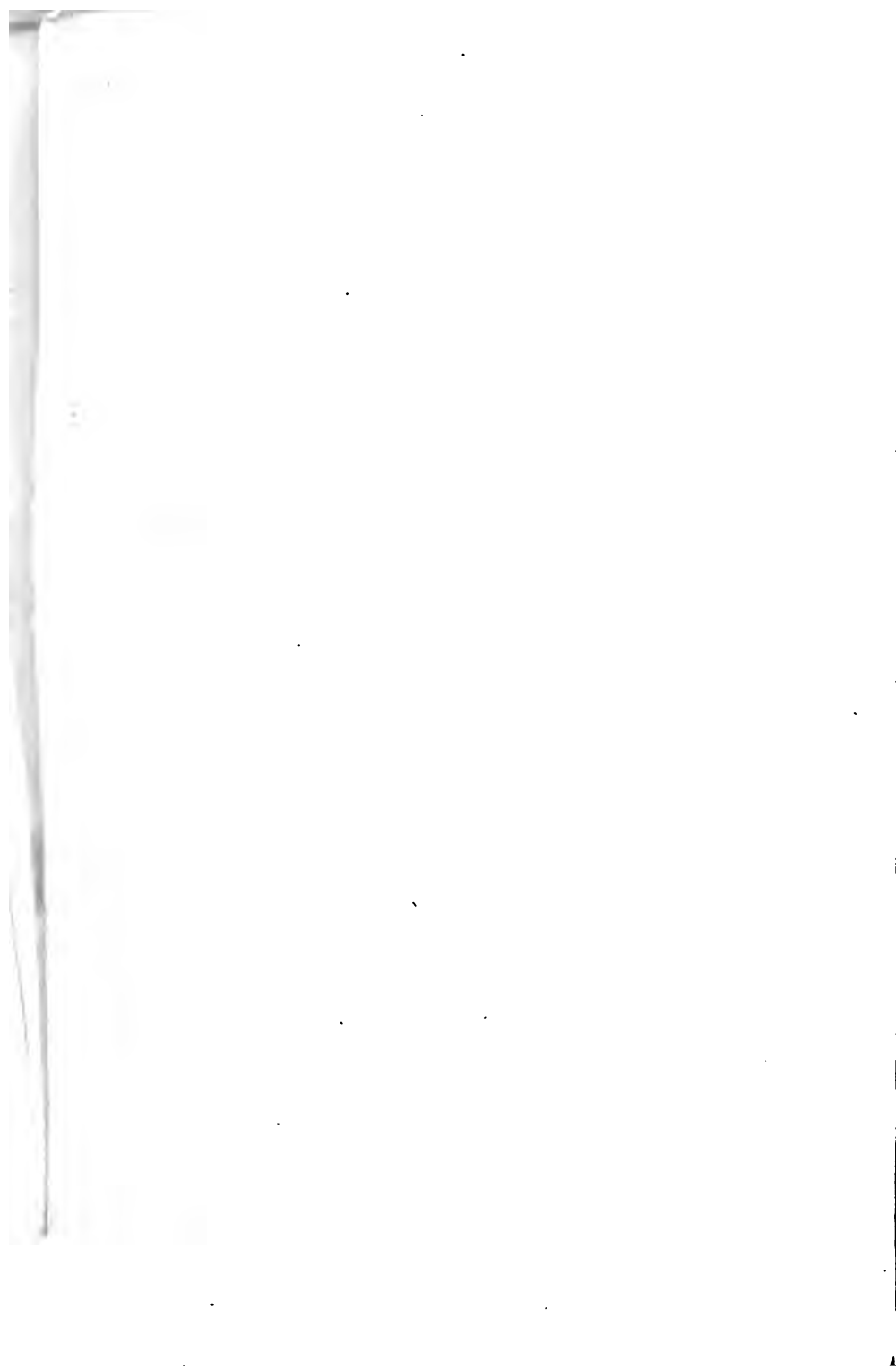




To) H. Lisan, Esq.--  
with the usual respect,  
—

MUNDI ET CORDIS

CARMINA.



MUNDI ET CORDIS:  
DE REBUS  
SEMPITERNIS ET TEMPORARIIS:  
CARMINA.

---

POEMS AND SONNETS.

---

BY THOMAS WADE.

---

"Ed è sì spento ogni benigno lume  
"Del Ciel, per cui s'informa umana vita,  
"Che per cosa mirabile s'addita  
"Chi vuol far d'Elicona nascer fiume?"

PETRARCH: *Seventh Sonnet*



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LONDON:  
JOHN MILLER, HENRIETTA-STREET,  
COVENT-GARDEN.  
M DCCC XXXV.

280. i. 289

LONDON :

PRINTED BY T. C. SAVILL (LATE HARJETTE AND SAVILL)

107, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

TO  
BARRY CORNWALL, ESQ.,  
THIS VOLUME  
IS  
INSCRIBED,  
BY  
HIS OBLIGED AND OBEDIENT  
FRIEND AND SERVANT,  
THE AUTHOR.



## P R E F A C E.

---

IN publishing this volume, its Author has not even the happiness of hope. "In these times," he has but too much reason to fear that it can receive only a slight attention even from those whose approbation he most covets, and for which he would willingly do homage. Men intensely engaged in a tumultuous and engrossing strife, are not wont to take more than casual heed of the small bird singing high over their heads, or of the minute flower throwing forth its perfumes at their feet.

In a brief and momentarily-uncertain life, however, he who, of the many a thousand verses which he may, imperceptibly, have written, shall be "fond" enough to deem that there may happily be some few, or even but a solitary ONE, that may embalm his name into an endurance beyond



that which is the ordinary privilege of dust, does ill to defer to auspicious opportunity his humble pretensions to remembrance; and thus incur the risk of being belated in that night in which "no man can work."

Of the following Brevities, many have already been seen in places where the honourable reception which they have severally received is their Author's best assurance that they are not altogether unworthy of appearing in their present collected form. The greater portion of them, however, and of the Sonnets more especially, are now for the first time submitted to the Public.

*Bearsted Green ;*  
*March, 1835.*

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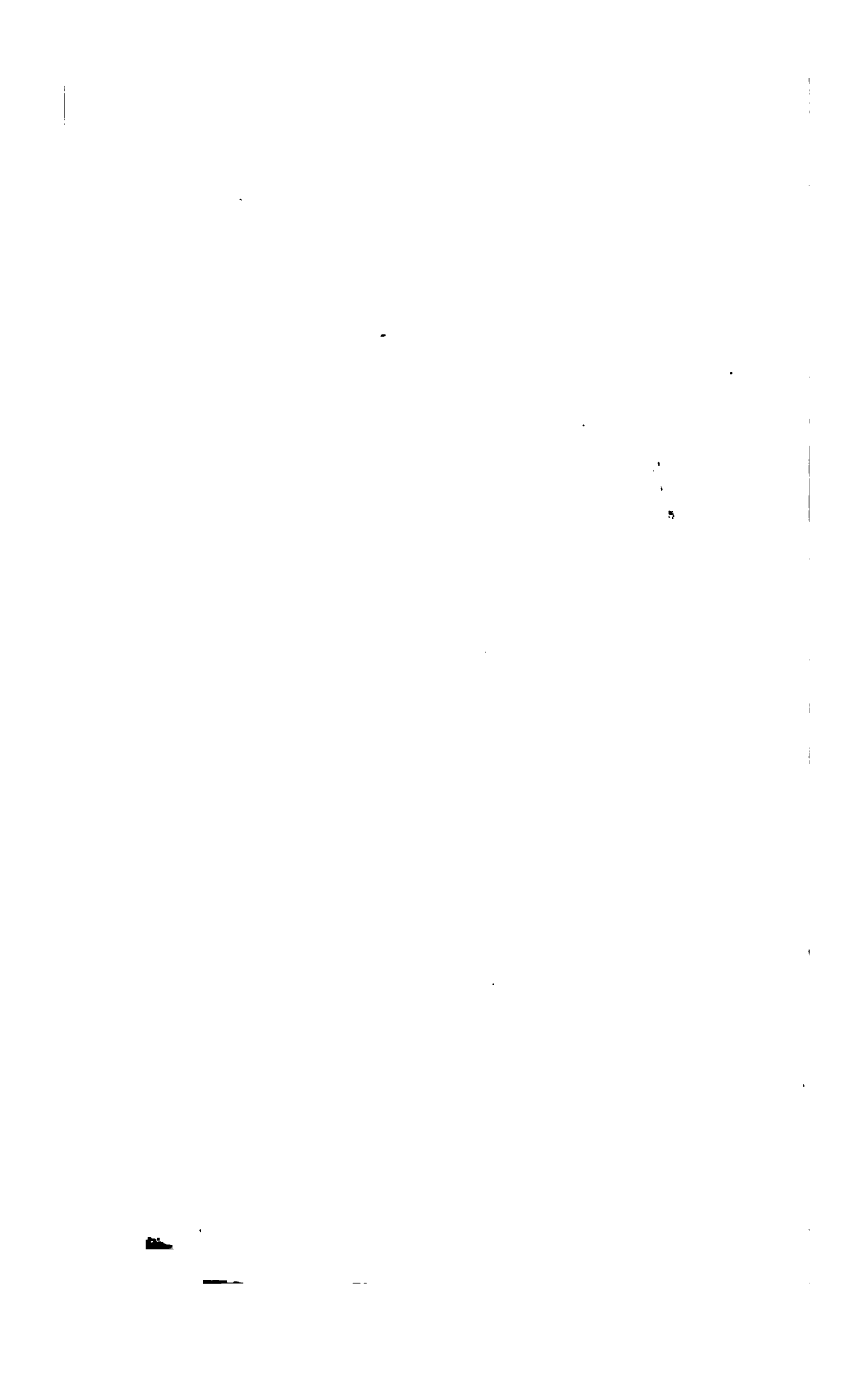


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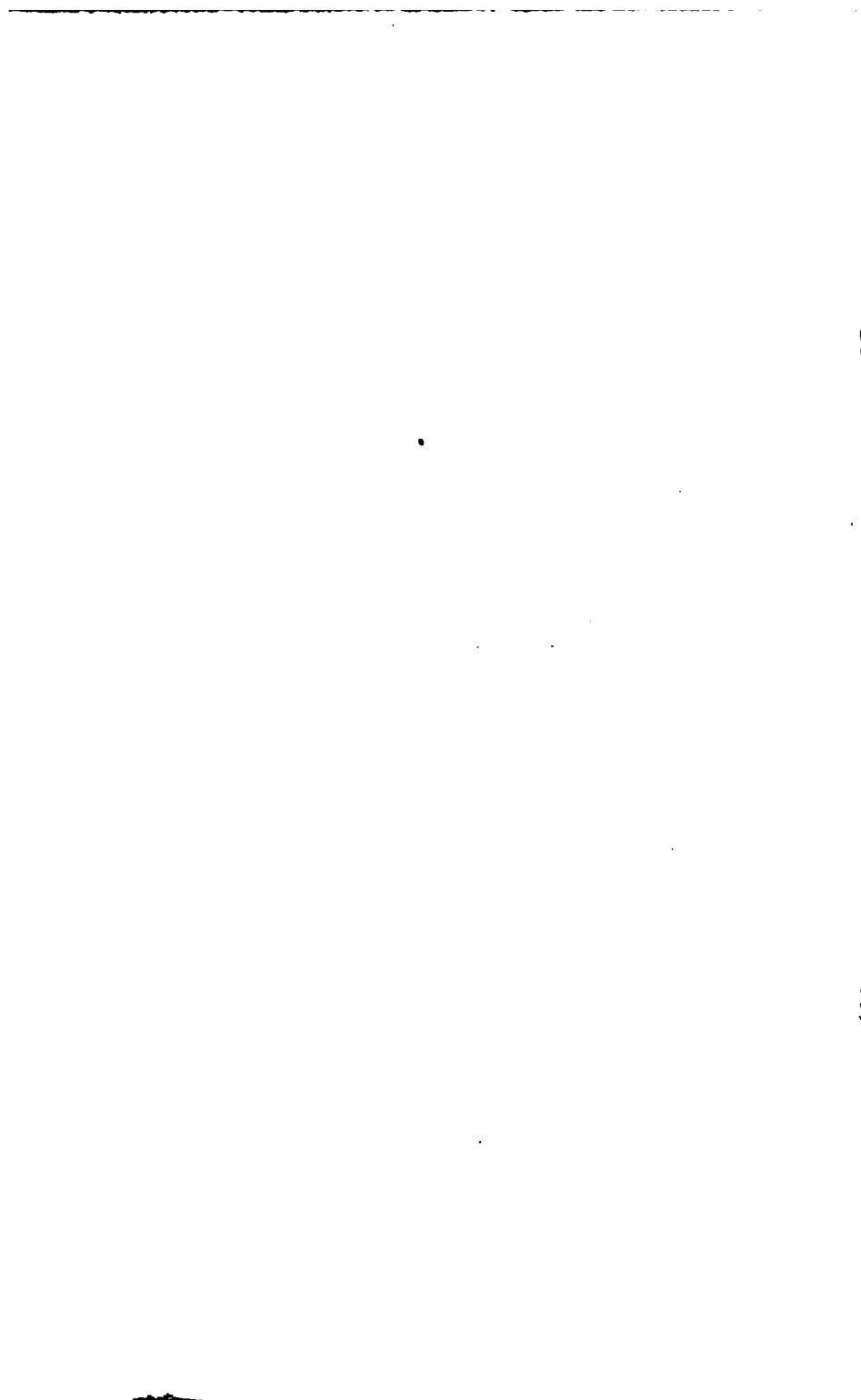
# MUNDI TEMPLUM.

---

POEMS AND SONNETS.



POEMS.



I.

TO POESY.

1.

THOU "Wine of Demons!" by dull Flesh abjured,  
But the true Essence of all things divine!  
The Incense that perfumeth Nature's shrine!  
Nectar of the heart and brain!  
Spirit's sun-unfolding Rain!  
Deep Poesy! I come to thee, allured  
By all that I do hear, scent, touch, or see;  
From the flower's delicate aglet, where the bee  
Makes music; to the depths of sea and ether,  
Where winds and waves in fierce love leap together,  
And storms are thunder-voiced and lightning-plumed,  
And worlds, Creation's sparks, extinguish'd and illumed!

2.

The mysteries which the Dreamers of old days  
Did gird thee with, in many a solemn strain,  
Are buried in the grave of our disdain:  
Men now no altars to Apollo raise;

And rich-brain'd Memory's glorious Daughters  
 Sink in Oblivion's Lethe-waters :  
 The Mount whence Eros shot his golden arrow  
 At jeering Phœbus' heart, revered by none,  
 Hath less advertence than a war-left barrow,  
 And every spring mates that of Helicon :  
 The blood-engender'd Horse, the winged vision !  
 With the child's steed becomes the man's derision ;  
 Round poet-brows no laurel crownlet clings,  
 And outward symbols all are scoff'd as idle things !

## 3.

But life and death remain unread ;  
 And by the same  
 Aspiring flame  
 Their poor inheritors are fed :  
 And thou and thy sublime rewards,  
 Deep-dwelling in the mind's regards,  
 Unchanged, are now as when dark Sappho writ,  
 Or Carus' wisdom on the world alit.

## 4.

Some idle voices are gone forth of late,  
 That thou art fading from the dreamless world ;  
 But darkness cannot yet decree light's date,  
 Nor thine imperial flag by slaves be fur'd !

## 7

From many a stately and electric pen  
 Thou still shalt rule and lighten amid men,  
     Blinding their common being  
 To teach diviner seeing!  
     Thou art immortal!  
     The lurid portal  
 Which openeth at life's last declivity  
     Is not for thee;  
 For thou wilt hold thine high festivity  
     Of grief and glee  
 Till mind with matter shall no longer mingle,  
 And crush'd be every world where breathing soul doth tingle!

## 5.

Deep Cell of Honey! evermore unclosed,  
 But filling fast as feasted on: thou Flower!  
 That on the steep of Life aye overpeerest  
 The ocean of Eternity, and rearest  
 Thy beauteous head beneath Time's hurricane power,  
 In which, though shaken, thou hast still reposed:  
 Even as a green bough waveth o'er a tomb,  
 Thy glories float above the old world's doom;  
 And as sweet blossoms beat to earth by rain  
 Rise with fresh beauty in the morning sun—  
 When Barbarism hath thy grace o'errun,



Thou with a most tender  
 And more perfect splendour  
 Hast blush'd reviving o'er the world again !

## 6.

Words, the keen instruments of Mind and Thought,  
 Are but the semblance which thou deign'st to wear  
 To make thy godhead visible to sense :  
 Then, on thy wings and in thy gaze intense  
 To Heaven by a divine assumption caught,  
 We mount amid the Soul's ascending thunder ;  
 Sublimar spirits for awhile appear,  
 And spurn this clay-work with disdain'st wonder !  
 Deep-mirror'd, in the ocean of the Mind  
 Thy heavens are in reflected glory kindled ;  
 Till, like a Typhon, thunder-struck and blind,  
 We fall, in darkness crush'd—helpless, and dwindled  
 Into our insect-cells again ! but thou  
     Dost comfort us with balm :  
     A holy calm  
     Falls on our woe ;  
 We bathe in thy sweet waters of delight,  
 And, so refresh'd, into our mortal night  
 Droop cheerful as the pinky daisy's eye,  
 That closeth in the twilight quietly.

## 7.

As many wander by the wondrous Ocean  
 Only to gather pebbles, thou to millions  
 Art but as vanity ; but that emotion  
 Which of the hearts who feast in thy pavilions  
 Is the ripe-gushing fruit and foaming wine,  
 Is deep as Bacchus' vat, or Mammon's mine !  
 Those who despise thee and thy dreamy glories,  
 Because they know thee not, are dreamers vainer,  
 Who sleep through their dark life, and think it light ;  
*Reality* their spell-word : but thy sight  
 Out-glanceth dull day-life ; thy lofty stories  
 Are clear as their fond creeds, and thy religion plainer.

## 8.

Oh ! be thou with my dense soul interfused !  
     That it may float in buoyant gladness  
     Upon thy stream of sober madness  
 Over the grave, within itself bemused :  
 When I am dead, be thou my cenotaph !  
 As shakes the shingle-foam beneath the wind,  
 I quiver at thy breath, which whirls the chaff  
 From out the stored garner of the mind :  
 Thou dost anneal the spirit, till each hue  
 O' the outward Universe doth pierce it through

And there live colour'd in resemblance rife !  
 Thy lightning flashes from the clouds of life !  
     As the eye, eastward fix'd afar,  
     Plucks from the dawn a paling star,  
         Seen but by a striving vision ;  
         Thou, with a sublime decision,  
         Forcest from the Universe  
         Many a dream and secret golden,  
         In its depths of glory folden,  
 And weav'st it into soul-essential Verse !  
         Like the storm-presaging bird  
         In the van of thunder heard,  
 Thou prophesiest of Eternity ;  
 And from the great To-Come clouds roll before thine eye !

## 9.

Like the Mæander's, thy sweet streams return,  
 From their diverse and mazy wandering,  
     To their bright fountain-urn ;  
     And to the spirit bring  
 Tidings of a diviner blossoming,  
 In meadows far away of endless Spring.  
 Nature's most common page with thee is fraught ;  
 Thy flowers expand around us, dew'd and sunny—  
 But the wing'd hearts by whom thy balm is sought  
 Are few, and fewer those that find the honey

Which sleepeth in the depths of thy perfume :  
 Bees amass sweetness from the lowliest flower ;  
 But vulgar insects o'er a world of bloom  
 Flit, and reveal no nectar-hiving power.

## 10.

Thy mighty elements, in peace prepared  
 In the creative chaos of the soul,  
 Are blent in fury ; and that storm is shared  
 By all who walk within thy sky's control :  
 But between them that in thy tempests pant  
 And thee, is seal'd a rainbow-covenant !  
 As in the banner'd gloom the dusk Night reareth  
 The solitary sea-bird disappeareth,  
 Thou fadest in the depths of our despair ;  
     But Hope's bright dreams arise,  
     With future-wooing eyes—  
 And, lo ! thy re-apparent wings burn in the visible air !

## 11.

The theme that's inexhaustible must cease  
 All unaccomplish'd, or for ever flow :  
     I dedicate my transient being  
     To thy great altars, thou All-seeing !  
 Lead me in tumult to thy sovereign peace ;  
 And print thy kiss of love on my soul's brow !

Suffer my footsteps in thy Places Holy ;  
And sanctify me with the melancholy  
Born of that exaltation !—Lo ! I droop ;  
And from thine ether to dim silence stoop—  
Yet musing of thee : as the lark, descending,  
Stills in the lower airs his gushing song ;  
And on the quiet mead his voyage ending,  
Sits hush'd, as his deep thought did the same strain prolong.

II.

PHOSPHOR AND HESPER.

PHOSPHOR.

IN a flood of ether I swim, I swim !  
 My argent lamp dewily burning ;  
 But, Sister ! thy splendour is dim, is dim !  
 As an eye to the grave returning—  
 Why is thy beauty mourning ?

HESPER.

I am weary and sick with dreams,  
 White Son of the Waking Morn !  
 For since the sun set in these western streams  
 I have slept in the midst of my golden beams,  
 The pillow of air adorning ;  
 And visions of time and space and heaven  
 The life in my heart have lulled, or riven ;  
 And now I sink  
 On night's dim brink,  
 Like a soul to the grave, that is unforgiven—  
 Forlorn ! forlorn ! forlorn !—  
 Art thou my sadness scorning ?

## PHOSPHOR.

The starry curtain of the dawn  
 Hath my silver hand withdrawn,  
     Orb of evening splendid !  
 My joy hath not birth from thy sadness ;  
 But the sun hath endow'd me with gladness :  
 From the crystal height of my eastern throne  
 I behold him ascending alone, alone !  
     Into heaven, with eye distended—  
     Like a thought of God in the poet's soul !  
 His herald-cloud is above me, tinted  
 With the light his purple kiss imprinted :  
     Its foldings pallid in dew unrol,  
 Which the lark, on my lustre calling,  
 Imbibes in its balmy falling :  
 I hear the star beneath me sighing  
 With the burning love on his pale heart lying—  
 Art thou, too, dying ?

## HESPER.

I seek my tomb  
 In the purpled verge of the night-cloud's gloom :  
     Like hope from the heart, I sink from heaven.  
 Our queen is tranced in a ghostly swoon ;

Red-banner'd Mars faints by the fainting moon,  
 And the constellations around are driven  
 Into the depths of the brightening dawn—  
 Like dews by the sphere of a flower absorb'd,  
 Or starting tears in the eye withdrawn !  
 Only thou art radiant-orb'd :  
 The morn o'ermantles the earth and sea—  
 Farewell ! they need not me ;  
 O'er the gulf of night am I clouded !

## PHOSPHOR.

Farewell ! I am failing like joy  
 Which its own sweet excess doth cloy—  
 Farewell ! in light I am shrouded !



## III.

## THE COMING OF NIGHT.

NIGHT in the east, like to a shrouded nun,  
Comes pacing, slow and melancholy, forth,  
With all her mystical austerity,  
Dark'ning the hills and billows ; but the west  
Still holds fair Day, who, like a dying saint,  
Gleams with a holy joy in her last hour,  
Mantled in gold and azure ; and two stars  
That on her lessening boundary hang in light,  
Seem angels minist'ring to her last breath  
Some heavenly consolation. Like death on life,  
The pall of Night spreads ever on the track  
Of fading Daylight, till the west, as east,  
Is darkness. Lo ! the stars, Day's funeral lamps,  
Hang thick and clustering in the vault of Heaven,  
Mirror'd along the ocean, which peals forth  
A requiem to the sun ; whilst those two orbs  
That leant above the death-bed of the Day  
Set, as in righteous sorrow, leaving Night  
To all the wide inheritance of Heaven.  
She wears her milky girdle o'er her robe

Starrily spangled ; and upon the cliffs  
And complication of the circling hills,  
The wave-swept shore, and all the amplitude  
Of air and sea, broodeth in starry vastness.

## IV.

## D A W N.

I **BREAK** upon the skylark's starry sleep :  
Lo ! up to the unclouded vault he springs,  
As a quick thought into the brain doth leap,  
And to the cresting star of morning sings  
A faint and trembling song ; again descending,  
And with the interrupted silence blending.  
The pale Dawn dreams amid the broken shadows  
Of sky and air, of ocean, cliffs and meadows,  
Like love, with eyes half-ope, through scatter'd hair :  
The morning star swings high its silver lamp  
O'er the white portal of the ethereal east ;  
And beaming upon Vesper, dim and damp  
In the pale purple of the western air,  
Lights her to sleep in the o'ercurtain'd night,  
Fast fading from the banner of the morning  
In the advancing van of its adorning.  
The fixed star-spheres, from their watch released,  
Retire within a veil of blinding light ;  
And, riding on Aurora's opening lid,  
Seem but dream-tears within its lashes hid.

As the morn wakes upon her starlight pillow,  
The moonbeam pales upon the tranquil billow,  
And, like a radiant ghost, slow dies away  
In the grey splendour of the kindling day.  
In a dim vapour, on the horizon's verge,  
Now setteth Hesper faint and weepingly ;  
And from the caves of night a murky surge,  
Advancing to the forehead of the sky,  
Enfolds in heaving clouds the day-star clear ;  
And the cleft orb of the way-weary moon  
And one far pilgrim planet's failing sphere  
Alone in the dissolving ether swoon.

## V.

## THE FROZEN COAST.

1829, 1830.

## 1.

THE winter-wild Seas have laid bare the shore,  
And shingle and sand from its stony floor  
Swept, and left naked a desert of rocks  
That was buried in pebbly depths before ;  
And the spray of the waves on their massy blocks—  
Of a thousand uncouth and fantastic forms,  
The offspring misshapen of billows and storms—  
Lies frozen, and white as an old man's hair :  
Some are huddled and clad, others lonely and bare ;  
And from the weeds on the adamant crowd,  
Thick, wither'd and starch'd,  
By the keen winds parch'd,  
The icicles hang their white frost-woven locks,  
Which shell-fish and creatures scarce animate shroud.  
Where the waves have receded that blent with the rills  
Which flow'd o'er the beach to the sea from the hills

And kiss'd them with freshness, of shingle-pierced ice  
 Lie glittering curves ; and the unmoving snow  
 Streaks the cliffs above and the beach below  
 And enwreathes the far hills with a varied device ;  
 And smooth frozen sea-weeds are scatter'd around,  
 Which, suddenly struck, gleam with stars at the wound.

## 2.

A river, the far-pour'd oblation  
 Of mountain-streamings, in their congregation,  
 Beneath a veil of ice transparent,  
 Through which its crystal clear apparent  
 Gleams like love through chastity,  
 Flows along the dreary sand ;  
 Till, breaking from its icy shade,  
 'Twixt ice-banks, from its waters made,  
 It trickles coldly to the sea  
 That foams upon the frozen strand.

## 3.

On the vast cliffs that heavenward climb,  
 Which on their brows wear storm-recorded Time,  
 The frost hath wrought a work sublime !  
 The manifold descending fountains  
 Of these cleft and concave mountains

Are veil'd within their icy cells,  
Portculliced by vast icicles,  
That, dagger-like, in each rocky jag,  
Hang threat'ningly from crag to crag ;  
And where'er a curving roof  
Beetles far into the air,  
There is woven a glorious woof  
Of ice-threads o'er the ceiling bare ;  
Whilst broader streamlets here and there  
From the cliff's summit to its base  
Lie bright and still in frozen ripples,  
Where the faint sunbeams, coldly nurst,  
Draw slow drops from those icy nipples,  
Which, chain'd by the frost in their downward chase,  
Seem struggling in vain to leap forth as at first—  
A charm on my eyes hath burst !  
A waterfall bold,  
In many a fold  
From steep to steep wide sweeping,  
Till, perpendicularly leaping,  
It sprang to the rocky beach,  
In vain hath strived to reach—  
For the frozen airs, around it creeping,  
In massy ice-bonds clasp it, sleeping,  
And there it lives, unheard, but dread,  
Like a mighty spirit dead !

## VI.

## THE WINTER SHORE.

JANUARY, 1830.

A MIGHTY change it is, and ominous  
 Of mightier, sleeping in Eternity.  
 The bare cliffs seem half-sinking in the sand,  
 Heaved high by winter seas ; and their white crowns,  
 Struck by the whirlwinds, shed their hair-like snow  
 Upon the desolate air. Sullen and black,  
 Their huge backs rearing far along the waves,  
 The rocks lie barrenly, which there have lain,  
 Reveal'd, or hidden, from immemorial time ;  
 And o'er them hangs a sea-weed drapery,  
 Like some old Triton's hair, beneath which lurk  
 Myriads of crowned shell-fish, things whose life,  
 Like a cell'd hermit's, seemeth profitless.  
 Vast slimy masses harden'd into stone  
 Rise smoothly from the surface of the Deep,  
 Each with a hundred thousand fairy cells  
 Perforate, like a honeycomb, and, cup-like,  
 Fill'd with the sea's salt crystal—the soft beds



Once of so many pebbles, thence divorced  
By the continual waters, as they grew  
Slowly to rock. The bleak shore is o'erspread  
With sea-weeds green and sere, curl'd and dishevell'd,  
As they were mermaids' tresses, wildly torn  
For some sea-sorrow. The small mountain-stream,  
Swoln to a river, laves the quivering beach,  
And flows in many channels to the sea  
Between high shingly banks, that shake for ever.  
The solitary sea-bird, like a spirit,  
Balanced in air upon his crescent wings,  
Hangs floating in the winds, as he were lord  
Of the drear vastness round him, and alone  
Natured for such dominion. Spring and Summer  
And stored Autumn, of their liveries  
Here is no vestige: Winter, tempest-robed,  
In gloomy grandeur o'er the hills and seas  
Reigneth omnipotent.

## VII.

## "SÖLVITUR ACRIS HYEMS."

## 1.

THE Winter's fled ;  
He's charm'd away :  
The Earth, that dead  
And frozen lay  
But yesterday,  
Hath burst her grave :  
The glorious wave  
Foams richly in the Sun :  
The Winter's reign is done !

## 2.

The sea-birds lave their wings  
For joy in the bright ocean ;  
The hill-descended springs  
Resume their bounding motion ;  
The ice and snow have vanish'd ;  
The freezing winds are banish'd ;  
And the mild airs come  
To their sunny home ;

Through which a skiff is flying,  
 And earthly meteor, vying  
 With one of heaven :  
 The clouds in heaven as heaven are clear,  
 And in the horizon doth appear,  
 Of texture even,  
 A silvery mist, that nothing veils  
 The glory of the atmosphere—  
 Yet the light-feather'd snow is flying on the gales !

## 3.

Pale, in the pale blue sky,  
 High o'er the snow-robed hills,  
 Hangs the hemisphered moon ;  
 Wan as a maid with maiden ills :  
 But she shall be no vestal soon ;  
 But on the bed of night, voluptuously  
 Fill'd with the sun's embrace, rejoicing lie.

## 4.

The splendour of the Universe is round me :  
 I am transfix'd ;  
 But my animate soul  
 Is pervading the whole,  
 Far intermix'd—  
 And love, sin, grief, nor death hath power to wound me !

IX.

A NIGHT AMID THE SEA-WARD HILLS.

1.

THE brow of Heaven wears  
 No frown, nor storm-cleft wrinkle;  
 The fountain's gentle tears  
 Amid the silence tinkle;  
 The lake it formeth in the meadow  
 Is kiss'd by many a trembling shadow  
 Of flower and blade;  
 Reflected stars, its depths amid,  
 Gaze heavenward as with furtive lid,  
 And by the moon a pyramid  
 Of light is made.

2.

The water-fowl supine  
 Crowd close, with hidden bills;  
 The ruminating kine  
 Move not upon the hills;  
 Moths on the warm air dimly flit,  
 And insects in a slumb'rous fit

Stir all the leaves ;  
 One bird, amid the hazel fluttering,  
 A sleepy cry of fear is uttering ;  
 And the scarce-audible sea, low-muttering,  
 A dull sound weaves.

## 3.

The fishermen's old boats,  
 Like shore-cast things asleep—  
 And nets, with shapeless floats,  
 Lie on the shingle deep :  
 Amid them, one rough sentinel  
 Strides as a lynx within his cell,  
 Still to and fro,  
 Tracking a smuggler's veering skiff,  
 In the dim distance fugitive ;  
 The sere grass stirs upon the cliff,  
 With motion slow.

## 4.

The Ocean's foamless lip  
 Scarce breathes upon the beach ;  
 The Moon and Hesper clip  
 Its depths with amorous pleach,  
 Beaming their love from south and west  
 Over its mutely-panting breast,

In paleness splendid ;  
 And by the gush and crisp retreat  
 Of its calm swell, their reflex fleet  
 Is curved from my advancing feet,  
 Or dim-extended.

## 5.

The gather'd constellations  
 The infinite blue bestud,  
 Whose twinkling coruscations  
 Cleave its ethereal flood,  
 And yield the deep pale influence,  
 Dim-scrutable to striving sense,  
 Of shade and light :  
 Murmurs pervade the concave hills,  
 From echoed sounds and trickling rills ;  
 And over all, the Night distils  
 A dew-shower bright.

## 6.

A solitude sublime  
 Breathes on my breathless heart,  
 And thoughts of death and time  
 Into its depths depart :  
 Immortal dreams above them gushing,  
 My soul in all my veins is blushing

With love divine—

**SPIRIT!** from me let not this symbol'd story

Of thine immensity pass transitory ;

Let me not lose of thine in-hidden glory

This outward, visible sign !

## X.

## S Y M P A T H Y.

THERE's music on the earth : the moon and her attendant  
 Partake the lofty solitude of Heaven.  
 Why should they seem more lovely to the sight  
 For that low melody? By the sweet strain,  
 Which falls upon the soul and melts the soul,  
 'Tis temper'd to their beauty : 'tis the mind  
 Which lends the happier influence it receives  
 From things external, and takes back its own  
 Even as a boon. A sympathy is on me :  
 I deem those fair lights mortal ; there's a death  
 Looks through their glory : feeling they may perish,  
 I love them more ; and my mortality  
 Shakes off its grosser weight, self-reconciled  
 By such high partnership.



XI.

N Y M P H S.

1.

BEAUTIFUL Things of Old ! why are ye gone for ever  
 Out of the earth ! Oh ! why ?  
 Dryad and Oread, and ye, Nereids blue !  
 Whose presence woods and hills and sea-rocks knew—  
 Ye've pass'd from Faith's dim eye,  
 And, save by poet's lip, your names are honour'd never.

2.

The sun on the calm sea sheddeth a golden glory,  
 The rippling waves break whitely,  
 The sands are level and the shingle bright,  
 The green cliffs wear the pomp of Heaven's light,  
 And sea-weeds idle lightly  
 Over the rocks ; but ye appear not, Dreams of Story !

3.

Nymphs of the Sea ! Faith's heart hath fled from ye, hath fled ;  
 Ye are her boasted scorn

Save to the poet's soul, the sculptor's thought,  
 The painter's fancy, ye are now as nought :  
     Mute is old Triton's horn,  
 And with it half the voice of the Old World is dead.

4.

Our creeds are not less vain ; our sleeping life still dreams ;  
     The present, like the past,  
 Passes in joy and sorrow, love and shame ;  
 Truth dwells as deep ; wisdom is yet a name ;  
     Life still to death flies fast,  
 And the same shrouded light from the dark future gleams.

5.

Spirits of vale and hill, of river and of ocean—  
     Ye thousand deities !  
 Over the earth be president again ;  
 And dance upon the mountain and the main,  
     In view of mortal eyes :  
 Love us, and be beloved, with the Old Time's devotion !

## XII.

## TO A WATER-DROP.

## 1.

AROM of the sustaining element  
 Which of the old earth is the sap and blood,  
 That dwell'st apart  
 From that vast heart  
 Of which thou art one life-drop, to the mood  
 Of thought thy narrow sphere lends spacious argument !

## 2.

This is thy voice :—" I am the globed dew  
 Which trickles from the locks of twilight grey,  
 When the earth falls asleep, and when anew  
 She wakens, blushing with a dream of day,  
 And the love-stricken star of the pale morning  
 Swoons in Aurora's eyelids ; till the grass,  
 Foliage and flowers are pearl'd with my adorning,  
 And not a leaf but drinks me as I pass.

## 3.

" I am the tears that gush from human eyes,  
     Even figured as themselves and glassy-sphered—  
 A sweeter dew let fall from clearer skies ;  
     And on the flower o' the cheek I hang endear'd :  
 I am the eyes, with air and fire enwove,  
     In triple glory ; and I am the light  
 Which moistly lies upon the lips of love,  
     When love to liquid kisses they invite.

## 4.

" I am the rain which clouded heaven weepeth ;  
     In the rebounding hail I dance congeal'd ;  
 In the still snow which, mute as shadows, sweepeth  
     Over the earth, I am by warmth revealed ;  
 And in the hoar frost is my gem secreted—  
     Soft-frozen dew ; and from the icicle  
 I come at the sun's call—on bare bough greeted,  
     Or far amid the rocks in cavern'd cell.

## 5.

" I form the clouds and mists : the setting sun  
     Doth glorify me in the golden west,  
 The moon in silver cloud and halo dun,  
     And planets in their circlets of dim mist.

Without me were not the electric fire,  
 Thunder, wind, meteor, nor bright exhalation ;  
 And through me the ethereal beams transpire  
 Which weave the rainbow's sevenfold coruscation.

## 6.

" I form the secret springs that feed the earth—  
 The gushing brook, swift rill and leaping fountain,  
 River and lake and waterfall ; and mirth  
 Bounds with my music adown many a mountain ;  
 And when the Winter with his cold hand chains  
 The fluent freedom which in me abided,  
 Ye may behold me fix'd in crystal plains—  
 And o'er me glide, swiftly as I have glided.

## 7.

" I am the seed whence grew the unfathom'd ocean,  
 Boundless, and crested with a foaming glory !  
 I form the billows whose eternal motion  
 Shakes the strong rock and fells the mountain hoary :  
 Without me the wide earth were desolate,  
 Its sweets corruption and its verdure sere ;  
 And splendour waits upon my flowing state,  
 Or in the curving wave, or orb'd tear !"

8.

Atom of the earth-filling element !

I cast thee now into thy kindred sea :

Lo ! thou art mingled—

As spirit singled

From Nature's soul, awhile in us to be,

Is given to the Great Vast, and with its Depths relent.

## XIII.

## TO A NEW-FALLEN LAMB.

## 1.

AWEARIED with thy struggle into light,  
 Thou liest exhausted on the dewy grass ;  
 Whilst o'er thee stands thy dam, in bold affright  
 At every footstep which doth near thee pass :  
 Pain, fear and joy and love are in her eyes,  
 And all a living heart's pure mysteries.

## 2.

But thou, unconscious and regardless lying  
 On the damp sod ; too new inhabitant  
 Of this great scene of quick'ning and of dying  
 To know or fear or joy ; clothed in thy scant  
 And rugged fleece, which the cold winds of morning  
 Unpitying strike, dost stir not at her warning.

## 3.

O, for the power to look into the spirit  
 Which, as thy senses from without receive  
 The knowledge of their being, shall inherit  
 Thine infant brain ; and in its foldings weave

The intricate forms and sounds, perfumes and hues,  
Which the great Universe must there infuse !

## 4.

Even in the contemplation of a lamb, .  
All that is vast and brief, blessing and curse,  
In life and life's, drives thought into a flame  
Whose bright spires in the blue-domed Universe,  
Beyond the spheres, are hidden ! Yet are we,  
Weak wretch ! but things of breath and blood like thee.

## 5.

Nor do I know that this so boasted air  
Of immortality we bear within  
Is privilege : thou dost not know despair,  
Though ignorant of hope ; nor crime, nor sin,  
Though with no self-wrought virtue ; and no fear,  
Although no faith, doth to thy dream appear.

## 6.

Or come there thoughts of life to that dark brain ;  
Or thy life's spirit be as senseless water,  
Which, all reflecting, yet doth nought contain  
Of that reflected ; even from birth to slaughter,  
But for some hopes and terrors which are mine,  
What difference 'twixt my mortal lot and thine ?



## XIV.

## THE COPSE.

TO ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE.

## 1.

Nor step, nor speech of human thing is near ;  
 But many-winged creatures, round me flying,  
 Make the incessant airs one voice appear  
 From Being's infinite heart ! Upon the dying  
 Trunk of this mossy fruit-tree, old and sere,  
 And half-uprooted, toward the green slope lying,  
 Will I recline ; and fold me in a trance  
 Of meditation with the bard of France.

## 2.

Away ! thou art too wild for this calm dell ;  
 Anon, I'll ponder with thee by the foam.  
 A bridal music, not a burial knell,  
 Must echo here : within this leafy dome  
 Soft-gushing melodies high o'er me swell  
 From two enamour'd birds, to shadow come  
 To bless each other with a summer song,  
 Whilst yet the earth is green and daylight long.

## 3.

O, god Apollo ! there be million pleasures  
 Which thine eternal lyre can ne'er express  
 That warble in these winged poets' measures,  
 Full flowing from their little hearts' excess !  
 I know not what may be the rhymed treasures  
 That have been lost in old Time's wilderness ;  
 But well I weet that never human lips  
 Breath'd love to love with sweeter soul-eclipse !

## 4.

They chant, till their own exquisite melodies  
 Extrance them into silence, and they flit  
 Mutely among the leaves : the gleaming flies,  
 Whose wings are rainbows, as with ether lit,  
 Around me wheel with stirring harmonies  
 That ne'er from dawn to twilight intermit ;  
 And deep in yon green cave a veiled stream  
 Murmurs like thoughts of Heaven in a dream.

## 5.

Alphonse de Lamartine ! Come hither, hither—  
 Furling thy sullen spirit's eagle pinion,  
 As mine is furl'd ; and let us weave together  
 A sunny song of panting Love's dominion  
 Over the Universe ! let us wear ether  
 Unclouded in our hearts, leaving the minion

Of common life to strive with common sorrow,  
And with our lyres assert the joy of Heaven's morrow !

## 6.

" I am here ! but not rejoicing  
    With thine idle gladness ;  
From the music round us voicing  
    I but gather sadness :  
Thou sittest on a tree uprooted,  
Which shall no more be leav'd or fruited ;  
Those minstrel birds, the bird of prey,  
Or winter and its want, shall slay ;  
Those insects are each other's slaughter ;  
And the sweet music of the water,  
Yon emerald cavern's mystic river,  
The falling earth strikes dumb for ever."

## 7.

I would reply ; but—hark to that pure strain !—  
Those wiser bards sing in the boughs again !

## XV.

## THE NEST.

IN a sun-excluding thicket—  
     Laurel, fir, arbutus, rose—  
 Where the cherup of the cricket  
     Rang at night and even-close ;  
 And at early morn and noon  
     Piped the chaffinch joyously—  
 To his mate each song a boon  
     Dear as human poesy  
 Unto human thought—as far  
     In its green elysium hidden  
 As in purple clouds a star,  
     In love's heart a wish forbidden—  
 Hung the litle woven nest  
 Of some teeming warbler's rest :  
 Based upon two laurel sprays—  
     Emerald moss for its foundation ;  
 Hair, enwreathed in subtle ways,  
     And, above, the implication  
 Of white wool and bosom-feather,  
 Matted in a round together :

Fibres fine and finer hair  
Lined the winged creature's lair ;  
Laurels were its tapestry ;  
Roses strew'd their leaves beneath ;  
Storms broke o'er it harmlessly ;  
And the summer's perfumed breath  
Round it crept in warmth and balm ;  
And the morn and even calm,  
Gliding its green curtains through,  
Hung them all with silver dew !

## XVI.

## M I N D.

## 1.

WHAT is thy emblem, Mind ?

The earth—now wearing on its forehead young  
 Unopen'd leaf-buds, and a few pale flowers ;  
 Now with the summer's green and blossom hung,  
 And lavishing warm love on all the hours ;  
 Now with its myriad globes of rich ripe fruit,  
 And its arboreous leaf-work, million-hued ;  
 Now cold in winter's winding-sheet and mute—  
 But its deep heart with brooding life imbued :  
 Its early flowers and bursting buds  
 Struck by chill winds and cloud-rain'd floods ;  
 Its summer mantle rent and sodden,  
 By all the elements down-trodden ;  
 Its golden fruit and foliage scatter'd,  
 And its dead limbs oppress'd and shatter'd  
 By the strong wings of wind and storm,  
 And frozen in its heart-depths warm !

## 2.

What should be thy emblem, Mind ?

The weltering ocean,

In calm or commotion—

Now with heaven's own hue

On its bosom blue ;

Gentle and slow, with lustrous shadows

Of clouds thin-woven,

By light airs cloven,

And studs of light o'er its azure meadows :

Now dark and still

As intents of ill,

And a mighty mirror

For every terror—

And inly-folded, like resolved will :

Now rolling and foaming

In thunder and fire,

Like the turbulent coming

Of rending desire :

Now vailing to midnight its quivering crest ;

Wearing starbeams and moonlight in love on its breast.

## 3.

What is thy meet emblem, Mind ?

The holy beauty of the sky,

Dim shroud of that vast Deity

To whose veil'd ray all rays we see  
 Are cloud ; with all the spirits that roam  
 Beneath its ether-woven dome :  
 The sun, whose space-enfolding flight  
 Steeps the inebriate earth in light ;  
 The unresting moon, the love-beloved ;  
 The planets and pale constellations ;  
 The cloud-stars, where the soul, reprov'd,  
 Dreams of immensity, and quivers ;  
 And ever-changing clouds, that flee  
 Before the wild wind's inspirations,  
 Like oceans dark and gleaming rivers,  
 And in tempestuous exhalations  
 Work change eternal o'er the earth and sea.

## 4.

As heaven upon the deep descendeth,  
 God—or whate'er that spirit's name  
 Whose torch lit up the undying flame  
 That lampeth in the eyes of space—  
     Falls on the mind :  
     As light and wind  
 Blend on the many-colour'd ocean's face,  
 So with our common thought that spirit blendeth :



As the sea shakes the earth  
With every billow's birth,  
The mind with all its strife  
Shatters the nerves of life !

XVII.

R E A L I T Y.

1.

REALITY'S slave

From the womb to the grave,

Awake ! awake ! awake !

Wouldst thou nothing but feed

And sleep at thy need ?

Awake ! for thy soul's sake.

2.

Art thou not a spirit

Ordain'd to inherit

The universe for ever ?

And from birth wilt thou creep

To thy worm-tended sleep,

And from thy clay pass never ?

3.

The past, the to-come

Inform and illumine

Thy present path, pale sleeper !

But thine apathy dull  
 Makes thy life-cloud more full,  
 And thy soul's shadow deeper.

4.

From Reality's trance  
 Thy spirit advance !  
 Be dreaming ! dreaming ! dreaming !  
 Let thy thought's rapid wave  
 Far, far o'er the grave  
 Be streaming ! streaming ! streaming !

## XVIII.

## DELIGHTS.

## 1.

Rock'd on the salt deep  
Into a sunny sleep,  
And a dream sublime  
Of the flow of Time,  
Whose billows without number  
Bear all things in a slumber  
Into Eternity,  
As we  
Over the glowing sea  
Are wafted sleepingly :

## 2.

Pillow'd, with leaves and stars above us,  
Upon hearts that love us ;  
Clasp'd and folden  
In arms and eyes,  
Till from full-cupp'd pleasure's brink  
Into a trance we sink,

With visions golden  
Peopling the shadow of our ecstasies—  
Redeeming sleep from death,  
And doubling every joy that perisheth :

## 3.

Upon an oaken bough  
In the fierce wind swinging,  
Shouting to earth below,  
To the clouds on high  
And the birds that round us fly  
Rejoicingly,  
Words of a clear-tongued poet's singing,  
Lofty flights of madness winging :  
These are delights divine—  
They have been mine.

XIX.

BIRDS AND THOUGHTS.

1.

OH ! I am weary  
 Of this being dreary :  
     Sweet birds ! Sweet birds !  
 The winter is around ye ;  
     And ice and snow  
     Wrap all below ;  
     Above, the air  
     Is cold, and bare  
     Each bough,  
 And the frozen breezes wound ye ;  
     That wherever ye fly,  
     On the earth, or on high,  
     Ye find no rest,  
     Nor food, nor nest,  
     Sweet birds ! Sweet birds !

2.

Oh ! I am weary  
 Of this being dreary :  
     Sweet birds ! Sweet birds !  
 Our thoughts like ye must ever  
     In this cold world  
     With wings half furled  
     Make voyage bare,  
     Till by despair  
         They're whirled  
 Around, and peace find never ;  
     And, sinking or soaring,  
     Earth or heaven exploring,  
     They still must flee  
     Joyless like ye,  
         Sweet birds ! Sweet birds !

3.

Oh ! I am weary  
 Of this being dreary :  
     Sweet birds ! Sweet birds !  
 Ye must wait till the spring unfoldeth  
     The sun and earth ;  
     And then in mirth

Ye may rejoice,  
And with clear voice

Her birth

Chant to the sphere which her beauty holdeth :

And our thoughts must await

The great life beyond fate,

To soar and sing,

Like ye in spring,

Sweet birds ! Sweet birds !



XX.

“ U S. ”

1.

For ever, for ever,  
The gathering river  
    Of human life flows on :  
We leave but a trace  
On the current's face,  
    And that is lost anon.

2.

Our laughter and tears,  
Our hopes and our fears,  
    Our spirit and our form,  
Like mist disappear  
Which silent streams wear  
    In summer-twilight warm.

3.

As a dream in our sleep  
Is our life in the deep  
Abyss of space and time,  
Whose visions most dim and ideal  
Of a being resplendent and real  
Are record and prophet sublime.

XXI.

OUR LIFE.

1.

As in a shadowy vision  
Do we walk the earth,  
In this brief transition  
Into death, from birth.

2.

We live, or dream—and ponder  
On all things around us ;  
Till the gathering wonder  
Deepens to confound us.

3.

In vain we strive to waken,  
And to feel that all is real ;  
By that effort wrung and shaken,  
We relapse to the ideal :

Till the sleep of life is past,  
And its visions are departed ;  
And we wake in death, at last,  
To a being clearer-hearted.

## XXII.

## PRESENT AND FUTURE.

## 1.

As from a gloomy valley,  
 O'er which clouds are sweeping,  
 Which with each other dally,  
 And end, like love, in weeping ;—  
 Where wind and rain are beating,  
 To shelter birds retreating,  
 And all things living hush'd ;  
 We gaze on hills afar,  
 Where sunbeams glowing are,  
 And life with light is flush'd :

## 2.

So from the Present's sorrow,  
 Where sighs and tears prevail,  
 We look toward far to-morrow,  
 And the Future's sunlight hail—  
 Bright as bright hills seen from the valley,  
 Where the rain and cold winds dally,

And the clouds are canopy,  
 And unseen one happy bird,  
 And no insect-cherup heard,  
 And leaves and flowers weep mournfully.

## 3.

But when we gain the height  
 Of time call'd future then,  
 We find that joyful light  
 Which there seem'd denizen  
 Is vanish'd ; and the gloom  
 Which made the earth a tomb  
 Hath with us been travelling :  
 As the clouds to hill from valley  
 With us in our pathway sally  
 And there in gloom are gathering.

## 4.

But still on heights beyond, beyond,  
 The cloud-chased rays are met ;  
 And on we pace, with footsteps fond,  
 In search of sunshine yet—  
 Though still the clouds above us  
 Float onward, to reprove us :

So ever are we cheated  
By the Future's flying light ;  
Till despair overwhelms all in night—  
And the soul drags back, defeated.

## XXIII.

## THE CURSE OF THOUGHT.

## 1.

WHY, why do I pine,  
 When the glories divine  
 Of the sky-painted earth are around me ?  
 Oh ! why do I grieve,  
 When so many hearts weave  
 About me their meshes of kindness ?  
 Why to me is all vision but blindness ?  
 Oh ! why doth the balm  
 Of retirement and calm  
 Not heal, as 'tis wont ; but still deeplier wound me ?

## 2.

'Tis the demon within,  
 More of doubt, than of sin,  
 That racks my gall'd spirit with brooding dismay !  
 I think on the past—  
 'Tis gone like the blast,



That dies, but leaves shipwreck and terror behind :

The present is blank as the eye that is blind ;

And the future's a dream

That all shadow doth seem—

A fathomless deep, without haven or bay !

## XXIV.

## D E S P A I R.

THE wave-roar of the thunder,  
     Beating the shore of heaven ;  
 The piled rocks asunder  
     By earthquakes widely riven ;  
 Wild beasts in midnight motion ;  
     Whirlwinds, and torrents showering ;  
 The tempest-voice of ocean ;  
     Volcanoes, lava-pouring :  
 Great armies, mad-ambitious,  
     In smoke and blood contending ;  
 Huge multitudes seditious  
     The air with tumult rending :  
 These things peace and silence are  
 To a mighty heart's despair !

XXV.

FAREWELL TO MORTAL LIFE.

1.

BREATH, impregnate with a dream—  
As the cloud with a sun-beam,  
Ere descends the tempest-stream—

Farewell !

Thing of shadows ; thing of fears ;  
Floweret drench'd by torrent-tears ;  
Splendour which a foam-wreath wears—

Farewell !

2.

Web upon a whirling gale ;  
Murmur in a desert vale  
From a wretch whose cold limbs fail

In snow ;

Flutter of an insect's wing,  
Gasping in another's sting ;  
Spray of an in-veiled spring—

Art thou.

3.

Whence thou flowest, where thou tendest,  
Why we love thee whilst thou rendest,  
In what fearful depths thou endest,

None weet :

Leaping from the limbs of pleasure,  
With all pains is thy deep measure,  
From thy birth to thine erasure,  
Replete.

4.

From an atom dost thou rise  
Into framed harmonies,  
And high thoughts that walk the skies  
Sublime ;  
Till thy weary lamp outburneth,  
And to nought its light returneth :  
Dust is all thy marvel earneth  
From Time.

5.

Though we salve and though we preach,  
We nor medicine, nor teach :  
Thy charms lurk beyond our reach,  
Strange spell !

From his poor pigmy hovel, to crush'd towers,  
Where the past's shadow clasps and overpowers

## 4.

The substance of the present. Some few flowers  
Amid these silent ruins breathe and smile ;  
And birds and insects frame their brooding bowers  
In the cleft walls—as if to reconcile  
The eternal enmity of birth and death,  
Ashes with blood, and airless dust with breath.

## 5.

The fulness and the vacancy of being,  
Reality and vision, truth and fable  
Alternately with blindness and with seeing  
Endue my pausing spirit ; and, unstable,  
Yield mingled visitings of faith and doubt :  
Pale adumbrations of this wreck without  
Come to the chaos within—I darkly dream,  
Lull'd by the unseen flow of my mind's cavern'd stream.

## XXVII.

## THE "BELVIDERA" OF FANNY KEMBLE.

## 1.

I oft had dream'd of mighty agonies,  
 Rending the heart with tempests of the mind;  
 Painting bare death upon the cheek, and filling  
 With some few tears of fire the maniac eyes:  
 Till such imaginations, fiercely thrilling  
 The electric soul within me, had entwined  
 Their shadows in one form—dark elements combined!

## 2.

But vague and indistinct the gather'd vision:  
 MEDEA, in her babes' blood all disguised;  
 CASSANDRA, uttering the wild woes of Troy;  
 Or DIDO, wailing in that dire transition  
 To desolation from o'erwhelming joy;  
 Or CONSTANCE, throned on earth and agonized—  
 But now my dark dream lives, in terror realized!

## XXVIII.

## THE NET-BRAIDERS.

## 1.

WITHIN a low-thatched hut, built in a lane,  
 Whose narrow pathway tendeth toward the ocean—  
 A solitude, which, save of some rude swain  
 Or fisherman, doth scarce know human motion ;  
 Or of some silent poet, to the main  
 Straying, to offer infinite devotion  
 To God, in the free universe—there dwelt  
 Two women old, to whom small store was dealt

## 2.

Of the world's mis-named good ; mother and child,  
 Both aged and mateless. These two life sustain'd  
 By braiding fishing-nets ; and so beguiled  
 Time and their cares, and little e'er complain'd  
 Of Fate or Providence : resign'd and mild,  
 Whilst day by day, for years, their hour-glass rain'd  
 Its trickling sand, to track the wing of time,  
 They toil'd in peace ; and much there was sublime

## 3.

In their obscure contentment : of mankind  
 They little knew, or reck'd ; but for their being  
 They blest their Maker, with a simple mind ;  
 And in the constant gaze of his all-seeing  
 Eye, to his poorest creatures never blind,  
 Deeming they dwelt, they bore their sorrows fleeing,  
 Glad still to live, but not afraid to die,  
 In calm expectance of Eternity.

## 4.

And since I first did greet those braiders poor,  
 If ever I behold fair women's cheeks  
 Sin-pale in stately mansions, where the door  
 Is shut to all but pride, my cleft heart seeks  
 For refuge in my thoughts, which then explore  
 That pathway lone near which the wild sea breaks,  
 And to Imagination's humble eyes  
 That hut, with all its want, is Paradise !



## XXIX.

## TO THE BIRD'S-EYE FLOWER.

## 1.

THY beauty seems wrought of bright dew  
That fell from the rainbow's blue  
    In rich drops azure and pearly;  
And the lark, from beside thee upspringing,  
Wild love of thy sweet eye seems singing,  
    As he mounts to the white clouds curly.

## 2.

Thou openest thy gaze to the morn,  
Whose kiss on thine eye-lid is worn,  
    Whence it presseth a tear of splendour  
And a bride, on her rich bed dreaming  
Of the love in her blue veins streaming,  
    Wakes not with a glance more tender.

## 3.

Beautiful being ! love-star of the flowers !

Birth-mate of the daisy in primrose hours !

Blue gem of the emerald meadow !

Not more sweetly the lone poet sleepeth

O'er the eloquent thought which he weepeth,

Than thou o'er thy moonlight shadow.

## XXX.

## TO THE BIRD'S-EYE FLOWER.

## HYMN THE SECOND.

THOU look'st on my Verse, dear Flower !

And my brain draws a finer power

From thy blue and tranquil eye :

Not the love on my Lady's lid,

As she broods o'er a joy heart-hid,

Fills my soul with a dreamy sigh

More lusciously !

The daisy, the glow-worm and lark,

In blossom, in light and in song,

And dews from the rainbow's arc,

Be with thee thy sweet life long !

## XXXI.

## TO A BUTTERFLY AT SEA.

## 1.

SLIGHT thing of sunny hours !  
Upon the cups of flowers  
    Folding thy wings in pleasure ;  
In perfume and mild airs  
Fulfilling thy sweet cares,  
    At bright and balmy leisure !

## 2.

What do thy pinions weary  
Upon the ocean dreary,  
    Where their light state must perish ?  
Upon the summer-meads,  
Where air on incense feeds,  
    Thou hadst enough to cherish.

## 3.

Here, by the strong wind driven,  
Ere long thou shalt have striven,  
    Thy grave will be the billow ;

And thoughts of the green home,  
Whence thou wouldst idly roam,  
Shall come to thy death-pillow.

## 4.

So Beauty's life is spent  
On love's fierce element—  
Her wing'd hopes fail; she dies :  
So the pale Poet's dream  
Faints in the waste extreme  
Of life's realities.

XXXII.

T H E   B I R D.

1.

COLD rain hath fallen through the kindless spring,  
     Sweet bird of song !  
 Thou hast been mute ; with wet and furled wing,  
     Dejected long.

2.

Summer at length is warm upon the earth ;  
     And sun and dew  
 Gladden the heart of things ; and thy wild mirth  
     Thrills heaven through.

3.

Had the spring worn the aspect of all gladness  
     On her fresh brow,  
 Thou couldst not have been further voiced from sadness,  
     Rich bird ! than now.

## 4.

And to have lived to sing to this great morn,  
So robed in glory !  
Cold winds and chilling showers well hast thou borne,  
Thing transitory !

## 5.

Let not despair await on gloom and sorrow,  
Though dark-enduring ;  
For in the future there is still a morrow  
High joy assuring.

## XXXIII.

## THE GREETING.

(A FRAGMENT.)

## 1.

My poet-thoughts, that long lay dead,  
 Are re-arisen ; and must be fed  
 With the delight of outward beauty,  
 That they may freshly pay sweet duty  
 To God and skies and flowers and birds,  
 With all the hoarded wealth of words ;  
 And give to Heaven and to Earth  
 Their resurrection, as their birth !

## 2.

Lo ! every wave of that vast Sea  
 Like a glad thing leaps to me ;  
 Welcoming, each to the other,  
 The advent of their mortal brother ;



Who hath long been toss'd, as they,  
 On a dim and stormy way ;  
 Now meeting on the self-same shore,  
 To part, and wander as before.

## 3.

The bare boughs greet me with oblations  
 Of dry leaves ; whence contemplations  
 Rise, like ghosts of youth and grace,  
 Met, in winter's gathering-place,  
 With the ancient and the rotten ;  
 All their witchery forgotten :  
 Ghosts, that still our ways condemn ;  
 Till we join decay—and them.

## 4.

Upon the Sea and on the cliff  
 There rests a glory fugitive  
 Of sunbeams, lying like the grace  
 Of bland smiles on a wrinkled face :  
 And on the sailing grey-gull's wing  
 Strange shades the clouds are scattering :  
 'Tis now a white speck in the black,  
 And now a stain on the white rack !

5.

O ! every thing to things, I ween,  
The light in which those things are seen !

\* \* \* \* \*

Now, God be praised for all he gives !—  
His creature, that was dead, re-lives.

## XXXIV.

## THE DREAM-DANCERS.

## 1.

No human beauty ever from the page  
 Of poet, or great painter's canvass, threw  
 Entrancement over sense ; or in an age  
 Of living flesh and blood to fulness grew,  
 So beautiful and living as did come  
 One summer-night before me in a dream,  
 Pacing a dance of love-delirium  
 With measured motion—like a brimming stream  
 Which rolling in the sun we do behold,  
 Its broad unvarying ripples hung with gold !

## 2.

A Man and Woman, bare as Bacchanals,  
 Clothed only in the robing light of pleasure,  
 And dancing to no music but the calls  
 Of sighs, which faintly with their feet kept measure ;

Their mingling limbs now loosed, and now entangled,  
     Like clustering rose-boughs when sweet airs are blowing,  
 Or pure ethereal fires now interspangled  
     By winds, and now apart in glory glowing ;  
 Their liquid eyes into each other burning,  
 Their kiss-curved lips still to each other turning :

## 3.

And thus they floated round and round, as lightly  
     As gold-wing'd creatures circle in the sun !  
 The Man still smiled rejoicing, and as brightly  
     As when their glorious dance was first begun ;  
 But the ripe Woman with voluptuous feeling  
     Became oppress'd—a Hebe steep'd in wine  
 Out of Jove's cup !—and, in their midway reeling,  
     Sank on the bosom of her mate divine :  
 Then, both grew ether-pale as skies at dawn ;  
 And o'er their forms a veil of light was drawn.

## XXXV.

## THE STATUE.

## 1.

SHE lieth bare, in unveil'd loveliness,  
 Yet nothing naked ; for the perfect charm  
 Of beauty and of symmetry doth dress  
 Her figure in a raiment bright and warm—  
 A garb most spiritual, which doth repress  
 The sensual eye of sense : with one fair arm  
 She leaneth on a pillow, softly sinking,  
 And her sweet face upturns, to some voluptuous thinking.

## 2.

The other, bending with a rainbow grace,  
 Plays with the hindmost tresses of her hair,  
 Over her shoulder—Oh ! that love-toned face !  
 It beams a passionate pleasure on the air,  
 And makes us crave some silent dwelling-place,  
 To gaze and live on it for ever there !

A love-thought stirs her mouth ; and o'er her eyes  
Appears the memory of a thousand sighs.

## 3.

Her rich-swell'd bosom, toward her white couch turn'd,  
    Spell-takes the eye-lids ; and her limbs, extended  
In animate perfection, are discern'd,  
    In all the harmony of structure blended,  
Pressing each other's beauty : there hath burn'd  
    A dream of fire about her, which hath ended ;  
And now she looks reposing from that vision,  
And from love's dream to love inviting soft transition.

XXXVI.

THE WAKING MORN.

1.

THE blue, the fair eye-blue of Morn,  
 With fallow cloudings islanded,  
 Opens in fondness, slumber-born,  
 O'er the loved earth beneath it spread :

2.

And, kissing it from balmy sleeping,  
 Lies on its breast in smiles of light ;  
 And hastes, joy-showers of dew-tears weeping,  
 To realise the dreams of night !

## XXXVII.

## A LAMENT FOR THE PAST.

O, EARLY Days! and Youth! and Bloom!

Ye are exsanguent in the tomb

Of Time and Change!

The Minutes and the Airs have taken

Your glory from this form forsaken!

I cannot range

The proud earth wantonly and proudly,

Nor cry unto the ocean loudly,

With glee redundant, as of yore!

The ecstasy of Life is gone!

Like a moss'd tree, I blanch alone!

I am beloved no more!

Old Time! my Youth restore!

Ye Elements! its liveries disgorge

From your eternal maw!

Kindle new fire, wherewith I may reforge



The iron of my strength ! O, for a law  
 Of the dead Past revocative !  
 To my Youth's grave, O, let my Age withdraw  
 For thus, for thus, it is not Life to live !

## SONNETS.



## I.

## T H E   B R I D E.

LET the trim tapers burn exceeding brightly !  
 And the white bed be deck'd as for a goddess,  
 Who must be pillow'd, like high Vesper, nightly  
 On couch ethereal ! Be the curtains fleecy,  
 Like Vesper's fairest, when calm nights are breezy—  
 Transparent, parting—shewing what they hide,  
 Or strive to veil—by mystery deified !  
 The floor gold-carpet, that her zone and bodice  
 May lie in honour where they gently fall,  
 Slow-loosened from her form symmetrical—  
 Like mist from sunlight ! Burn, sweet odours, burn !  
 For incense at the altar of her pleasure !  
 Let music breathe with a voluptuous measure ;  
 And witchcrafts trance her wheresoe'er she turn !

## II.

## BEAUTY VANISHED.

A CREATURE beautiful as dew-dipp'd roses,  
Symmetric as the goddess sprung in marble  
From out the sculptor's mind, deeply reposes  
In a rich sleep of thought ; and the clear warble  
Of birds that greet Aurora in blue skies  
Hath not a sound so holy as the sighs  
That part her fruit-like lips. Is she not dreaming  
A poesy inspired of panting love,  
Divine as that with which the heavens are streaming  
When the intense eye of the west is wove  
With the aurient sun-set ? She is gone ! I weep :  
For so all beauty passeth from the vision ;  
And clouds of darkness o'er the spirit creep,  
Making of all her light obscure elision.

## III.

## THE MINGLING.

NATURE, low-panting into silence, seems  
 In a voluptuous trance 'twixt pain and pleasure.  
 Like a flush'd bride, who sleeps, but still in dreams  
 Awhile sighs lovingly, the day is hush'd  
 To slumber in the west ; but its warm beams  
 Yet breathe there of the sun : a fitful measure  
 Comes on the air, at length'ning intervals,  
 From some near-nestling bird ; whilst, even as crush'd  
 Flowerets and leaves yield incense, fruits their juices,  
 The full-reposing beauty of the scene,  
 Press'd by the strenuous soul, deeply infuses  
 Its sweetness through the spirit ; till between  
 The twain is but one life, and these clay walls  
 On this side Death dissolve, and all on air we lean !

## IV.

## THE PRESENT.

As one, a steep and slippery cliff ascending,  
Pauses midway, and dares not farther climb ;  
But a reverting gaze beneath him bending,  
Greets terror in the downward course sublime ;  
And 'twixt the crags above and rocks below  
Quails : so, between the depths of all we know,  
And the veil'd Future's unattained summit,  
Despond we, till our fears around us throw  
A murkier shade than death's ; and all the glow  
Of fancy's star-fires would in vain illumine it :  
But, ever and anon, Love's moon-like beaming  
With a religious beauty o'er us streaming,  
Nor ghost of Past, nor dream of Future riseth—  
But the sweet Present all in all sufficeth.

## V.

## THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE.

WAR lay by Love : his sanguine limbs her whiteness  
 Bound, as might wreaths of coral ivory ;  
 His sun-burnt cheeks from her ethereal brightness  
 Gather'd a gentle glory ; whilst a die  
 Of shadow from his brow her fair embrown'd,  
 And fell like twilight on the day profound  
 Of her warm eyes : then, lull'd in purple splendour,  
 She tamed his fierceness with her kisses tender ;  
 And in the folding of her delicate arms  
 Beguiling him to savage deeds' disuse,  
 By the full prevalence of yielding charms  
 She won for long-lorn Peace a live-long truce ;  
 Girding with moonlight hope her cloud of fears—  
 And half-redeem'd the world from blood and tears.



## VI.

## THE PARALLEL.

I CANNOT celebrate great Nature's face  
 When my adoring eyes are fixed there ;  
 For then am I enrapt in my enjoyment,  
 And feel her charms too well to say she's fair.  
 When thou art on thy wooing lady's bosom,  
 To laud her lips, or eyes, is't thy employment ?  
 No ; thou hast scanty time to cull the blossom,  
 And pausest not to descant on its grace :  
 But when thy love hath its delirium fed,  
 Thou dost retire, and call on memory ;  
 Then in thy brain is inspiration bred,  
 And thou salut'st her with a comment high :  
 So, till I from the face of Nature turn,  
 I cannot speak the thoughts with which I burn.

## VII.

## COMPARISON.

As lightning flashing on a twilight kiss  
Startles the heart that in the darkness trusted,  
Lest sight should make a sin of harmless bliss—  
True to the law which Nature's self adjusted :  
So, men's eyes striking on my musings written  
Alarm my mind, that thought not to be seen,  
Lest they should be with contumely smitten  
And their high truth cried false by others' spleen.  
Those lips are bold which bid the world defiance  
And in its spite will take their dues of pleasure ;  
That verse is daring which holds firm alliance  
With truth, and metes the world with rightful measure :  
But lips still kiss, in face of scandal's blame—  
And I must write, though half the world cry *Shame !*

## VIII.

## ON A HUMAN HEART.

AND was this loathsome clod, which now I grasp,  
 The vital centre of a wondrous world,  
 Warming a bosom for pale love to clasp ?  
 Was this foul mass the marvel, where enfurl'd,  
 Like waves along the mighty ocean curl'd,  
 High feelings rose, that would the stars defy ?  
 Was this the throbbing and dilating thing,  
 That lent all splendid beauty to the eye,  
 Made the lip burn with holy melody,  
 And floated Fancy on her rainbow-wing ?  
 It was !—a living and a human heart !  
 A sun of smiles—a solemn cloud of tears !  
 What is it now ?—Oh ! let my soul depart !  
 She's stricken, and her glory disappears.

## IX.

## TO THREE SKULLS.

STILL grinning ? ye grim frames of vacant bone !  
 Still staring at me from your sockets blank ?  
 Your noses, bitten by the grave's black frost,  
 Still sneering hideously ? and your lean jaws lank,  
 Jagg'd with those gumless teeth, still horribly  
 Mocking the porch of lips ?—Ye do accost  
 My waking with a warning thunder-tone ;  
 And in your looks I read the certainty  
 Of something that's eternal—death, or life—  
 For ye with either argument are rife.  
 I have had horrid dreams ; and ye are blest  
 That no more welter with such fiery rain—  
 Curse on your empty heads ! that are at rest,  
 Whilst tortures now are ringing through my brain !

## X.

## S L E E P.

Why should'st thou rail at Sleep? poor waking Fool!  
How canst thou tell what heavenly subtleties  
Are in thy brain wrought by the Power of Dream?  
What wondrous seeds of Rhymed Mysteries  
Sown in the Soul in slumber, when the cool  
And dew-lipp'd Night hath kiss'd each golden beam  
That made the Day, into oblivion;  
And we within her silent bosom swoon  
Into a trance like Death's? What's waking pleasure,  
But a forgetfulness of all of pain  
That hath been and must be, with some bright treasure  
Of present bliss, that no possession leaves us?  
And what is Sleep? A ceasing to complain;  
And happiest life, if it a sweet dream weaves us.

## XI.

## S P A C E.

O, FOR a song of unimagined glory,  
To tell the visible wonders of great Space !  
And stand as on a spiritual promontory,  
Looking Creation in her holy face ;  
And with the adoring eye of Poesy  
Read the love-secrets there ! Holy, all holy,  
Is every aspect of the earth and sky ;  
And all the mighty cloud of melancholy  
That from the soul without on that within  
Descendeth, to the brainwork of vast dreams  
Lends splendid shadowings. O, for deep words,  
That, like the music of leaf-hidden birds,  
Might even from the listening flowers win  
Assent to the great love which in me teems !

## XII.

## R E V E L A T I O N .

SPIRIT!—to God!—The Eternal Soul of Things  
 Is animate within us!—we aspire ;  
 And, glorying in our elemental fire,  
 Expand etherially—till we embrace  
 At least a cloud that looks a deity ;  
 And gazing upon Nature, face to face,  
 Half trace her secret fountains to their springs,  
 And hold a still communion with her sky.  
 We need no revelation of the God—  
 The high, instinctive Being of all Space ;  
 For, as the sweet flower rises from the sod,  
 Our essence from its clay springs mountingly—  
 And all its heavenly birth-right doth inherit !  
 Ay, Spirit's revelation dwells in Spirit.

## XIII.

## LIGHT IN GLOOM.

THE self-same play is acted day by day,  
And we the weary actors in the sameness :  
Our eloquent'st thoughts are dumb in their display,  
Our sight not seeing, and our speeding lameness :  
We walk as in a cloud ; and that poor ray  
That finds us in the midst, but serves to show  
The deepening mist that girds us as we go.  
And yet, I wot, a high and glorious light  
Lies in the outward Nature's couch of fire,  
To whose eternal pillows we aspire,  
And of their ardent freshness dream delight—  
That makes a living waking in our slumbers,  
Lightens a beam of glory through our night,  
And leads the Soul's streams forth, in all their crystal numbers.



## XIV.

## S O L A C E.

THOU who dost slumber in dim apathy,  
Born of this world's unfathom'd mystery—  
Where nothing sweet is tasted, not even love,  
Which bitterness succeeds not ; where the dove  
Of dear Enjoyment, by the vulture Sorrow  
Is murder'd at the heart ; and hope and thought,  
By their intensity to torture wrought,  
But gild the brief night that hath no to-morrow—  
Yet, come with me ! and to the altars fleeing,  
For refuge from ourselves, of Nature holy,  
Let us there worship, till this gloomy being  
Feel gladness lighten o'er its melancholy ;  
And gazing on the blue sea, rocks and sky,  
Our souls gush to their God, in felt eternity !

## XV.

## THE JOURNEY.

" WE'RE on a journey brief; the day is bright,  
 " And our thoughts joyous—that we shall not tire."  
 We're on a journey that is infinite;  
 'Mid an eternal change of sun and cloud,  
 Cold winter showerings and hot summer fire;  
 Breathed on by zephyrs, struck by whirlwinds loud;  
 And our thoughts, floating through eternity,  
 Are lapt by turns in joy and agony,  
 In glory and in gloom; and if fatigue  
 Assail us not in our unresting travel,  
 'Tis that we make with our own souls a league  
 Not to look far before, but on our road  
 Glance round and feel employ'd: would we unravel  
 The Immensity beyond? We lift a weary load.

## XVI.

## MINDS AND THE UNIVERSE.

THERE must be mighty pantings of free thought,  
Cravings profound for liberty and love  
And sublime ponderings on life and death,  
In all the spirits that fill mortal forms !  
I cannot yet believe the human swarms  
Hived on the earth, are the mere things of breath,  
Instinct and form, custom, and slavery  
To what their fellows damn, or may approve,  
Which still they seem : the mystery round them wrought,  
The source and flow of things, the Eternity  
From whence they issued and to which they tend,  
Must draw their souls unto their utmost bend  
And turn them from life's daily littleness ;  
Or reason is an ape, and spirit spiritless !

## XVII.

## LIFE AND ITS DREAMS.

EVEN as a cloud, from the horizon's bound,  
Floats o'er the dark sea dim and rapidly,  
Passes before the sun, deriving light,  
Wafts o'er the hills, as doth an airy sound,  
And latching on the forehead of the night,  
Faints into unseen dew—and so doth die !  
Even as a far bird comes, with swift endeavour,  
In happy search of regions summer-mild;  
Sinks weary down upon the billows wild,  
And soon within their depths is whelm'd for ever :  
So is it with our life, from birth to death ;  
And, in their cloud and bird-flight, all its dreams  
Still vanish even as a vapour's wreath,  
Or perish in affliction's gather'd streams.

## XVIII.

## THE LIFE ETERNAL.

WE have two lives. The one, is but a cheat :  
 A thing of mere convention, which we bear  
 As minions of that Congregate Deceit,  
 Society—sole hope of many men !  
 The tiny parts of one great counterfeit.  
 The other, fountain'd in Eternity,  
 Eternal is ; and toward Eternity  
 Flows constant ; self-impelling and sublime :  
 It recogniseth neither Space nor Time ;  
 Contain'd not, but containing ; in itself  
 Folding the Universe ; creating all,  
 Of nought created ; sole, and self-sustain'd !  
 An all-perpetual, undiscerned glory,  
 To which this Visible Round is darkly transitory !

## XIX.

## ENCHANTED GROUND.

I SAT alone, far in a meadow nook,  
 Fern, briars and wild-flowers dew around me weeping,  
 And read upon old Bunyan's Christian book  
 Of Pilgrims vain on Ground Enchanted sleeping :  
 As, musing, from the page my gaze I took,  
 I saw dark ivy round a wild-flower creeping ;  
 A spider, when my eyes that trance forsook,  
 Its venom on a golden insect heaping,  
 Did I arrest with my detecting look :  
 Beyond, a pretty-winged thing was steeping  
 Its plumes in dew-beams from the woodbine shook,  
 At which a bird flew by, and caught it, leaping.  
 Ah ! when these evil aspects gird us round,  
 'Tis best to sleep upon Enchanted Ground.

## XX.

## H O P E ' S   N E E D .

THE earth is full of ripe and pleasant foison,  
Enough to feed its human people all  
With sweet abundance ; yet, save they quaff poison,  
Or have recourse to water, fire, or steel,  
Or strangling, or from some high point down fall  
And dash their lives out, there be those must feel  
Famine, and pining cold, and desolation.  
O, God ! sure hearts are stones ? or none would want  
The little which they lack in their progression  
From birth to death : men's needings are but scant ;  
But scantier far men's charity, denying  
Superfluous food to life, with hunger dying.  
O, Human Thought ! that in thy contemplation  
Bear'st this, and hopest not—thine is sore oppression.

## XXI.

## AN EXHORTATION TO MANKIND.

WHEN will it be that men shall kinder grow  
 In human intercourse ; and not thus, savagely,  
 Spring upon each occasion to o'erthrow  
 Their fellow-travellers through mortality ?  
 God hath apportion'd us enough of woe  
 In this brief journey ; from within derived,  
 And from the elements, in which we sicken,  
 Grow weak and die : let not man be deprived  
 By man of that poor solace which doth quicken  
 The flagging heart and the o'erlabour'd brain,  
 And temper to endurance, when self-stricken,  
 Or time and storm-worn. Transient thing ! refrain !  
 Sting not thy brother insect, till he perish :  
 A life brief as thine own, vex not ; but cherish.



## XXII.

## TO THE PEOPLE.

THE Fatal Tree that grew in Paradise,  
Whose Fruit, being plucked and eaten, brought the Curse  
Of Sin and Sorrow on the goodly Earth,  
Must cure as it hath poison'd ! Healing lies  
In Knowledge for the wounds which the Old Verse  
Avers were got from Knowledge : a new birth  
Must rise from death ; and both of that high cause  
Which makes us " even as gods " be the derived laws.  
Let the gall'd Many, in their banded numbers,  
Drink of the solemn Knowledge-streams that flow  
Over the Land, from the exhaustless springs  
Of the Redeemer-Press ; till what encumbers  
The people with its load be hurl'd below  
Into hell-depths, and Mind be left to her free wings !

## XXIII.

## THE TO-COME.

WE spurn thy slight decrees, ephemeral World !  
 And the debased necessity of things  
 That bows us down before them : there is furl'd  
 In us the banner of a fortitude,  
 And lowly on its sovereign rampart hurl'd.  
 It shall be re-exalted ! There be wings  
 Weaving themselves within the loom of Time,  
 On which a race to come shall float sublime  
 In the just liberty of their own mood.  
 Thou art a tyrant high, usurping power,  
 Which shall a little moment be obey'd—  
 And then, dethroned ; the disenthraling hour  
 Now lightens from the Future's thunder-shade !  
 Thy minions veil their eyes, and are dismay'd.

## XXIV.

## A PROPHECY.

THERE is a mighty dawning on the earth,  
Of human glory : dreams unknown before  
Fill the mind's boundless world, and wondrous birth  
Is given to great thought ; and deep-drawn lore,  
But late a hidden fount, at which a few  
Quaff'd and were glad, is now a flowing river,  
Which the parch'd nations may approach and view,  
Kneel down and drink, or float in it for ever :  
The bonds of Spirit are asunder broken,  
And Matter makes a very sport of distance ;  
On every side appears a silent token  
Of what will be hereafter, when Existence  
Shall even become a pure and equal thing,  
And earth sweep high as heaven, on solemn wing.

## XXV.

## OF POETS.

Oh ! do not envy Poets the poor breath  
Of praise which urgeth on their sail of life  
Along the troubled waters of the world ;  
Nor the rich power by which they twine the wreath  
Of fame which crowns them when that sail is furl'd  
In the calm haven of the breathless grave :  
Bitter and strong and manifold the strife  
Which shakes them on that voyage ; every wave  
Of feeling dashes o'er their weltering heart ;  
And all the thunder and the flash of thought  
Vollies and lightens round their fitful brain ;  
And their high power, by which the world is wrought  
To mightiest sympathies, is grasp'd in pain,  
Shower'd from the bosom-tempests they impart.

## XXVI.

S H E L L E Y.

HOLY and mighty Poet of the Spirit  
That broods and breathes along the Universe !  
In the least portion of whose starry verse  
Is the great breath the sphered heavens inherit—  
No human song is eloquent as thine ;  
For, by a reasoning instinct all divine,  
Thou feel'st the soul of things ; and thereof singing,  
With all the madness of a skylark, springing  
From earth to heaven, the intenseness of thy strain,  
Like the lark's music all around us ringing,  
Laps us in God's own heart, and we regain  
Our primal life etherial ! Men profane  
Blaspheme thee : I have heard thee *Dreamer* styled—  
I've mused upon their wakefulness—and smiled.

## XXVII.

## SHELLEY &amp; KEATS, &amp; THEIR "REVIEWER."

Two heavenly doves I saw, which were indeed  
Sweet birds and gentle—like the immortal pair  
That waft the Cyprian chariot through the air ;  
And with their songs made music, to exceed  
All thought of what rich poesy might be :  
At which, a crow, perch'd on a sullen tree,  
Dingy and hoarse, made baser by their brightness,  
Would fain be judge of melody and whiteness,  
And caw'd dire sentence on those sweet-throat turtles ;  
To which his fellow flock of carrion things  
Croak'd clamorous assent : but still the wings  
Of those pure birds are white amid the myrtles  
Of every grove, where cull they nectar'd seed,  
Whilst still on cold, dead flesh, those carrion creatures feed.

## XXVIII.

## “ JULIAN AND MADDALO.”

I READ of “ Julian” and “ Count Maddalo,”  
Till in their spirits’ presence stood my soul ;  
And blending with their sympathy of woe,  
A tempest woke my thoughts, and they ’gan roll,  
Billow on billow, toward Eternity—  
And Passion’s cloud hung over the vast Sea.  
Where is the Essence now, that thought and spoke ?  
Absorb’d like water, the frail vessel broke  
That held it trembling from the sand awhile ?  
Or doth it quiver still ; and, quivering, smile  
At the now clear’d-up Mystery of Creation ?  
Which shook it once even to its mortal seat,  
Which seems the brain and heart, that burn and beat,  
Till Life pants darkly for Annihilation.

## XXIX.

## T A G L I O N I.

THE music and the eloquence of motion  
 Breathe in quick beauty from her subtle feet ;  
 She moveth like a moonbeam upon ocean,  
 Which curves and quivers as the billows fleet ;  
 Upon the earth her fine foot falls as lightly  
 As winds of odour, or aërial rays  
 From Morn's blue eye, on a mist-woven cloud—  
 Or dews upon the forest and the flowers :  
 So round Apollo glance the golden Hours ;  
 Bacchants, with thyrsus arm'd and cymbals loud,  
 So bound, in many a wine-bewitched maze,  
 About their joyous god ; so Iris, brightly,  
 Weaving from sun and rain her silent wings,  
 Upon her pinnacle of ether springs !



XXX.

## THE TRANCE.

For six long months I lived and yet was dead :  
All faith and hope were gone from me ; I spoke not ;  
My heart no longer on my spirit fed,  
But on itself, and bitterly ; it woke not  
With the awak'ning world of things ; it sunk  
Into the depths of sullen-sleeping thought,  
And brooded on extinction, in a drunk  
And apoplex'd bewilderment ! I sought  
For savage arguments, wherewith to arm  
My life against my life, that it might pass  
Into oblivion : but the mighty charm  
Of Being chain'd me to itself ; a glass  
All microscopic came to my Soul's eye—  
I shook—the atom Time grew to Eternity !

## XXXI.

## THE REPROOF OF FAITH.

EVEN by the Wonder of the Universe  
 My inmost heart and brain were shaken fearfully ;  
 And whether 'twere a blessing, or a curse,  
 One of the myriad moving things to be  
 That people it, I knew not. From the Sea  
 A sound of terror and a sight of gloom  
 Pass'd through me ; and as upward, mute and tearfully,  
 I turn'd mine eyes for comfort, Space grew dark  
 And breathless as a deeply-vaulted tomb ;  
 That my soul circled round the hueless arc,  
 And thence return'd unsolaced. From within  
 At length dawn'd consolation. Much of sun  
 Had shone, and yet would shine, where now was none :  
 Faith with the thought came back ; and whisper'd—" Doubt  
 is Sin."

## XXXII.

## A T O M I C S.

THE cavities of tiny grains of sand  
 Have "deserts idle" and deep "antres vast,"  
 The haunts of things alive, which understand,  
 By usage of all senses, that they live,  
 Enjoy and suffer ; but, no more ! And we,  
 Of this "great globe" the creatures transitive,  
 Know we aught else, for sure ? Eternity ;  
 Immensity : in these our doom is cast ;  
 With which compared, earth and its measured time  
 Are but as sand-grains, whereof in the nooks  
 We little insects take our revelry,  
 Laugh, weep, and turn to dust. Those dogma-books  
 That plague us with our immortality—  
 Hold they more truth of warrant than this rhyme ?

## XXXIII.

## THE UNDECEIVING.

ON the great day when I did cease to love,  
A glory from the midst of things departed :  
But straightway I became more solemn-hearted ;  
Lifting the business of my mind above  
The vulgar work of sense, and even drew  
A fulness from the world's new vacancy.  
In the changed spirit of life which in me grew  
There was a temperate and chasten'd sadness,  
That gather'd in the wake of that old madness  
As cloudy evening o'er the hot day-sky,  
And strengthen'd with its shade my dazzled view  
Of Present and Hereafter. Be my eye  
Closed to all outward beauty from this hour ;  
Whilst in my soul I arm a change-defying power !

## XXXIV.

## SOUL-CREATION.

THOSE words I utter for the Vulgar World  
Are not the speech of my in-musing heart ;  
Where, like to honey by the flower enfurl'd,  
There lies a treasure from the World apart :  
The World, that cannot pluck from me the art  
Of breathing beauty into trembling song ;  
Which till the blood be stagnant in my veins  
Must of prerogative to me belong !  
An hour of calm and sea-side loneliness  
Will melt out from my mind the grievous stains  
Impressed there by forced worldliness ;  
And as an eve of stillness after storms  
Shall my soul be, and with a self-caress  
Beget creation of all lovely forms.

## XXXV.

## THE UN-CHARMED.

My pierced life was all ablood with sorrow !  
For, suddenly, the veil of beauty thrown  
By glorifying Youth o'er sweet To-Morrow  
Fell, and disclosed to me the Future's frown ;  
Within the wrinkles of whose unread brow  
There was a lurking something which till then  
I dream'd not hung before the lives of men,  
Ready to fall upon them as they grow  
Into the longer knowledge of brief years :  
Blank vacancy ; and doubt ; and strangled tears,  
That never reach the eyelids ; vanishing  
Of all sweet things we love ; death-beds ; and graves ;  
And shadowy wrecks, where pale hopes trembling cling,  
Heart-faint, and stifled by continual waves !

## XXXVI.

## THE CORRUPTION.

WITH much of baseness have I had to do—  
Base men ; base things !—in this relapse of mine  
Into the darkness of our common life,  
Through which we thoughtless of all wonders go  
Of birth and life and death, as brutish swine  
That for their food i' the mire make bestial strife.  
Worse than Persephone dragg'd back to Hell  
From midway-wending towards Apollo's sight,  
Fares the pale Soul, into her fleshly cell  
Resunk, from her aspirings to the light  
Of that ethereal day which ever burneth  
In holy Thought's imagined Universe !  
I have been tempted ; and I feel the Curse,  
As vainly now my heart to its old glory turneth.

## XXXVII.

## “ MY TABLETS, HO ! ”

TIME passeth o'er me like a silent cloud ;  
 My gaze reverteth, but 'tis gone—dissolved  
 Into vacuity, or dim-involved  
 With the undiscerned winds !—Oh ! Infancy,  
 Where be thine eyes, floating in delicate blue ?  
 Oh ! Childhood, where thy heart-high prophecy  
 Of dream-fulfilling bliss ? Oh ! Beauty's hue,  
 Where be thy balmy youth ? Oh ! Manhood proud,  
 Where thy stout sinews ? Age, oh ! where thy breath ?  
 All blended in the infinite of Death !  
 Therefore, away ! base heed of appetite ;  
 And, love ! be pastime for a wanton hour :  
 Out of this darkness must I kindle light,  
 And the all-powerful Shadow overpower.



XXXVIII.

TO MY SONG.

FAWN of my deer-swift Thought ! that wert most young  
And bounded o'er the meadows of delight,  
Dew-freshen'd herbs and pleasant flowers among,  
With choice of cool shade or of sunshine bright :  
What hath befallen thy rejoicing state,  
That thou dost gambol on the sward no more,  
But still at early morn and evening late  
Crouch on the sod where thou didst leap before ?  
A blight is on thy place of revelry,  
And thou dost pluck up hemlock with thy food ;  
That well may sick death overdim thine eye  
When poison mingles with thine infant blood :  
Ah ! muddy are the streams thy thirst that slake ;  
And thou hast honours—but they branch, to break.

## XXXIX.

## R O Y A L T Y.

FEELS a king's soul as mine such regal pride ?  
 I'm hill-surrounded and star-canopied,  
 And upon Thought immortal am I throned ;  
 My verse my sceptre, and my liegemen true  
 The tributary hearts which I imbue  
 With my mind's shadow : should I stand disown'd  
 Amid the peopled world—scorn'd of the many,  
 Fear'd of the few and unbeloved by any—  
 I am the master still of mine own fate ;  
 Defeat cannot subdue me to its state,  
 Nor victory unseemingly elate :  
 Otway died meanly ; not so Chatterton,  
 Whose hopes forsook and left his heart alone—  
 No footstool-emperor he, for man to tread upon !

## XL.

## PHILOSOPHY AND IMPULSE.

TO G\*\*\*\*\* T\*\*\*\*\*.

WHEN Socrates, through Plato, learnedly  
 Argueth against impulsive action,  
 I, in the ignorance of Mortality,  
 To his divinest meditation,  
 Which holdeth that achievement—difficult  
 As is the checking of the wind and tide—  
 The curbing of the Thought's and Feeling's pride,  
 To be within the scope and a result  
 Of blood and fancy-led Humanity,  
 Do write me down most captious heretic,  
 Falling to contradiction splenetic.  
 Ah! dear G\* T\*\*! If this did abide  
 Within the compass of Philosophy,  
 My Friend and I were spirits right orderly!

## XLI.

## AN ANTICIPATION.

My youth was love, and all my love was youth ;  
And youth and love were blended in my song ;  
With much of fable, but with more of truth,  
And though the chain was weak, its power was strong :  
For, as we pause by summer-vale, or hill,  
To drink the music of a bird, or rill,  
So warm hearts waited round my gushing lyre,  
And loved the dreamer for his vision's fire !  
But now my hair is grey, my sense is blind ;  
Time's ashes choke my heart's expiring glow ;  
And my Song, leaving this bright world behind,  
Mounts to the loftier world to which I go :  
I muse on deathless things ; but die, alone—  
A King abandon'd, by his shatter'd throne !



ADYTA CORDIS.

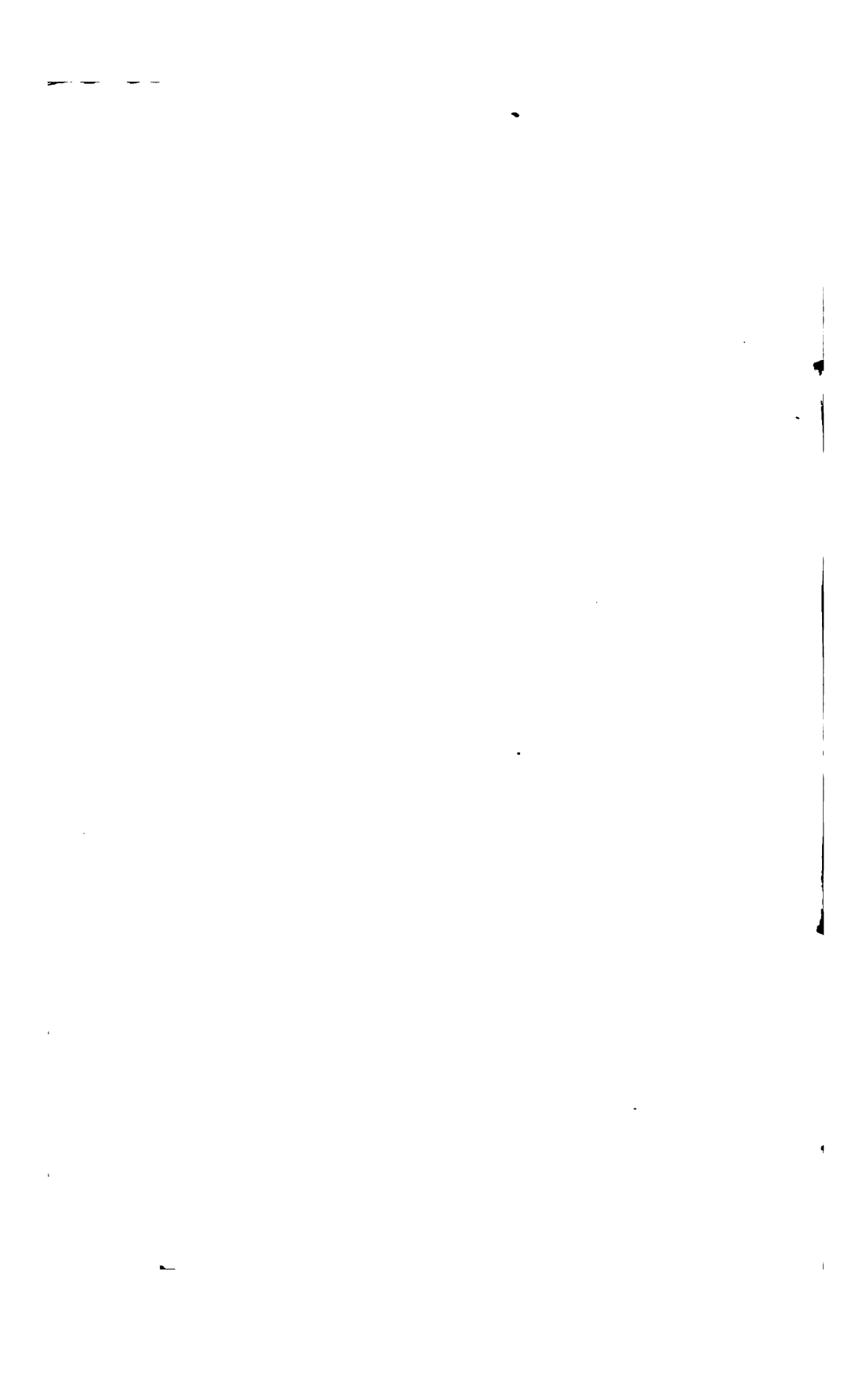


POEMS AND SONNETS.



**POEMS.**





## I.

## PAIN AND SOLACE.

## A VISION.

## 1.

With her I love I enter'd a proud chamber,  
 Festoon'd with golden lamps, of many dies  
 Illumed, with pendants of rich pearl and amber;  
 And on the walls hung ancient tapestries,  
 Storied with many tales of smiles and sighs.  
 There, in the midst, on a low ottoman,  
 Sate she I loved, gazing with weeping eyes  
 Upon a woven mythos of Old Pan,  
 And Syrinx, piteous Nymph! transformed as she ran.

## 2.

"Thou hast destroy'd me, Traitor!" wildly turning  
 To greet me as I pass'd, she cried aloud;  
 Her fine eye flashing and her fair cheek burning:  
 "Thou seest me here to mine own sorrows bow'd,  
 Thou Dreaming Falsehood! of thy falseness proud!

Still thinking how to use me for thy lyre ;  
 And out of my dark Passion's thunder-cloud  
 Lightning to draw : ay ; like yon Shepherd Sire,  
 A living song to make of thy most dead desire.

## 3.

" Begone !—I shall not die !" —She said ; and faded,  
 Like to a form of mist in evening dim,  
 When the true vision of the eye is shaded,  
 And all around with spectral face and limb  
 The fields and woods seem ghastly. As a Hymn  
 Of God long sounds within the Sinner's brain  
 After the Airs have tomb'd its notes sublime,  
 Those words still shook my heart, all pierced with pain—  
 As haunt a Slayer's soul the last sighs of the Slain !

## 4.

But with the solemn echoes as I quiver'd  
 Of that prophetic voice of her I loved,  
 Deep phrase of solace she I love deliver'd,  
 Which the infection of their grief removed.  
 That phrase :—" She shall not die !—Let it be proved  
 By entranced songs of living minstrelsy ;  
 Which lark enclouded, nightingale engroved,  
 May pipe sweet concord to from earth and sky ;  
 Whilst the World's loving hearts, in chorus soft, reply !"

II.

P R E V E N T I O N .

1.

THOU dartest the soul-laden light  
 Of thine emu-eyes, unpeer'd,  
 Upward to mine, as to invite  
 Answer coveted, but fear'd :  
 And the nectar in the flower  
 Hath not that alluring power  
 For the hived mechanic bee,  
 As for me  
 Of thy lips the honied dower,  
 Where, like a red flag on a tower,  
 Passion triumphs sanguinely.

2.

But other eyes are coldly near ;  
 The charm ineffable is broken :

From my entranced eyes gather, Dear !

What else were done, what else were spoken :

The holy kiss which others see

Is but a barren kiss to me.

## III.

## THE APPEAL.

## 1.

By that power which in man  
 The might of intellectual mind,  
 Which all height and depth can scan,  
 Still waves o'er that in woman shrined ;  
 The sky-aspiring sympathies  
 That spurn this world's realities,  
 And from eager soul to soul  
 Fly in fire without controul—  
 Thee I summon to surrender  
 To the hopes which in me burn,  
 And drink feelings deep and tender  
 Heart from heart, as from an urn !

## 2.

I listen to thy bird-like singing  
 As to the music of some sphere,

Far in the depths of azure winging  
 A hymning flight, which souls may hear  
 That at midnight muse alone  
 In a thought-world of their own :  
 'Tis laden with a mystery deep,  
 That falls like shadow on me—and I weep !

## 3.

I look into thy deep blue eyes,  
 And see thy soul reposing there,  
 Like a rainbow in the skies ;  
 The creature of a smile and tear,  
 Arching o'er each azure sphere :  
 Oh ! when shall love be closing there,  
 Wearied with intense delight,  
 As a blue flower in twilight ;  
 Or star-fires when the moon doth peer ?  
 I gaze upon them, till I sleep  
 In an inebriate dream—and through my brain doth leap

## 4.

A mighty torrent of imaginings,  
 Full-starr'd with eyes, and clothed with wings,  
 All-seeing, all-pervading—  
 Excess of light my soul is shading !

And unless thy heart accords  
That which love ne'er asks in words,  
My heart, even as my lyre, will lose its strings,  
And in dumb anguish die, like winter-stricken birds.



IV.

THE CUP OF JOY.

1.

THE cup of my joy is filling ;  
 Thou pourest the nectar, Dear !  
 And the draught will be deep and thrilling  
 As ever the heart came near !

2.

Pour on ! pour on ! till the rim  
 Be hidden with Love's strong wine :  
 That passion must flow o'er the brim  
 Which is shed from a face like thine !

3.

'Tis full ; I have quaff'd ; and my blood  
 In the draught hath been madden'd and quell'd :  
 Still I pant for the same sweet flood,  
 By the thirst of my spirit impell'd !

4.

Fill high, again ! fill high !

Let the nectar again gush o'er !

I faint in the fire of thine eye,

And must drain the full cup once more !

V.

THE CREED.

1.

I do believe in Heaven ;  
'Tis written in those orbs of seeing :  
A perfect creed is given  
By those celestial lights, of an eternal being !

2.

There's sweetness in the flowers  
And hues with glowing beauty rife ;  
But in those eyes of yours  
Floats a diviner grace, that speaks eternal life.

3.

Within the stars is glory,  
And evidence of Heaven and God ;  
But the " Hereafter " story  
Burns with intenser truth in that twin-sphered abode.

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4.

Yet will my creed confound me ;  
Its oracles are too divine :  
The light they pour around me  
Distracts me from the god ; I but adore the shrine.

5.

As you in Heaven believe,  
Veil them ! they are too richly clear :  
Veil ! and my faith reprieve—  
Their light hath too much love for burning sense to bear !

VI.

LOVE'S SAFETY.

1.

LOVE! thou tremblest like a flame  
 That quivers in the air of night :  
 Is it the breath of love, or shame,  
 That strikes and seals thine eyes of light ?

2.

Like the lark in cold air singing,  
 The glow-worm in the chill winds gleaming,  
 Dost thou quail ; a sleep seems clinging  
 Toward thy bosom, passion-dreaming.

3.

Wake! for eyes are watchful near ;  
 Thy face betrays forbidden feeling :  
 Wake! for, oh! bethink thee, Dear—  
 Love's safety lies in love-concealing.

VII.

THE LIFE OF FLOWERS.

1.

“ I WOULD, dear Love ! that I thy convert were  
 To that strange lore—‘ The fair flowers dream and feel,  
 Are glad and woful, fond and scornful are ;  
 And mutely conscious how the unresting wheel  
 Of Time revolveth, and doth hourly steal  
 Their beauty, and the heart-companionship  
 Of their nectarious kindred, that reveal  
 Their souls to sunlight, and with fragrant lip  
 Drink the abundant dews that from God’s eyelids drip.’

2.

“ But then, I never dare another cull,  
 To crush its being, and for ever end  
 Its commune with its fellows beautiful :  
 Ah ! no ; presence and absence never blend  
 A consciousness about them ; or to rend

Lover from lover, in their early wooing,  
 When even the rainbow their dew'd eyes transcend ;  
 For our adornment merely—oh ! 'twere doing  
 Sweet creatures bitter wrong, with our worst woes induing.

## 3.

“ At least, for conscience' sake, I'll not believe  
 That they are sensible to hearted feeling ;  
 For in no creature's being would I weave  
 Those griefs which even now I am revealing  
 In tears and sighs, from lips and eyelids stealing—  
 Sad rain and wind of my heart's laden cloud !—  
 By which, if they do feel, with wounds unhealing  
 Their parted spirits must be cleft and bow'd,  
 Till they grew pale and sere, and wore Death's common  
 shroud.”

## 4.

Then—to the lover's and the poet's warning  
 Attend ! as to a Delphic oracle :  
 When flowers into the grey eyes of the Morning  
 Peer, in awaken'd beauty, from Night's cell ;  
 On the warm heart of Noontide when they dwell ;  
 Or close in loveliness at Twilight's feet—  
 They have their thoughts and dreams ; and thou dost quell

A gentle spirit in each blossom sweet  
 (Which its love-conscious mates for ever pine to greet—

## 5.

And pine in vain !) which thy small hand doth sunder  
 From its green birth-place !—Art of those that sleep  
 In common thought, to whom there is no wonder  
 In all the Universe sublime and deep—  
 Invisible and visible ! There weep  
 Dews of a Morning round us, which must break,  
 And unveil all things o'er which darkly sweep  
 The night-shades of our ignorance. Awake !  
 And in this creed believe—for Love's, if not Truth's sake.



VIII.

TO A GLOW-WORM.

1.

BEAUTY through all Being  
 Sheds her soul divine ;  
 But our spirits, fleeing  
 Still, from shrine to shrine,  
 To kneel to her delights, far in the midst repine.

2.

Ev'ry vision splendid  
 That our dim eyes greeteth,  
 By a cloud attended,  
 Its own light defeateth ;  
 And sorrow strikes the heart from every joy it weeteth.

3.

Drop of dewy light !  
 Likier dew than fire ;  
 Lit to guide the flight  
 Of thy mate's desire ;  
 Thou look'st a fairy robed in a moonbeam's attire.

## 4.

In thy leafy net-work  
 Thou, enshrined, dost glow,  
 And a beamy fretwork  
 O'er its verdure throw—  
 Thou little spirit of light, green-paradised below !

## 5.

Twilight, the dim ghost  
 Of the bright day ended,  
 From the awful host  
 Of great hills descended,  
 Reveals thy magic lamp, by silent genii tended.

## 6.

Beautiful the glory,  
 Pallid lamp of eve !  
 Twilight transitory  
 Doth from thee receive,  
 When deep in herbs and flowers thy splendours thou dost  
 weave.

## 7.

When the verdant floor  
 And blue vault of night  
 Love's star gildeth o'er  
 With its holy light,  
 Thy rays responsive glance to its aerial height.

## 8.

Silver-fretted clouds  
 In the vaulted blue,  
 Likest are the shrouds  
 Which thy beams imbue  
 Of lightly-stirring leaves that palace thee in dew.

## 9.

Eyes which sorrow dampeth  
 With the grief of love,  
 That in beauty lampeth  
 Through their lashes, wove  
 With crystal tear-work, beam like thee in dewy grove.

## 10.

When thy fires, in number,  
 Brightest beams retain,  
 Clouds break on the slumber  
 Of the air, in rain—  
 Even as too many smiles do herald tearful pain.

## 11.

Centred in sweet bushes,  
 Drench'd by the fast rain,  
 Where thine emerald blushes,  
 Paled, but bright, remain,  
 Thou art as a calm heart which sorrows beat in vain.

12.

Round thee wild winds howl,  
 Dashing thee to earth ;  
 Where thy tranquil soul,  
 With unalter'd mirth,  
 Gleams—as in our fierce world sweet innocence and worth.

13.

Through the tempest loud  
 Thou dost calmly pierce,  
 From the perfumed shroud  
 Which thy beams immerse—  
 As through the storms of Time the Poet's balmy verse !

14.

Beauteous as thou art,  
 Memory makes thee dim :  
 Thou disturb'st the heart,  
 Twilight's living gem !  
 And my recurring thoughts cling to a mournful theme.

15.

For one vanish'd hour,  
 Gulf'd in the dead past,  
 Sighs and tears I pour  
 To the wave and blast ;  
 And my recurrent soul to its own depths is cast !

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16.

Ne'er on leaf and blossom

Do thou shine again,

Till this weary bosom

Sleeps, beneath them lain ;

Then nightly on my grave for epitaph remain.

## IX.

## EVENING.

## 1.

THE dews are falling, the dews are falling ;  
 The lark is in his place of rest ;  
 The swallows swift in the air are calling,  
 Intent upon their insect-quest :  
 Small moths o'er every bramble flit ;  
 The ants are still their labours plying ;  
 A massy cloud, by sunset lit,  
 Over the daylight's grave is lying ;  
 And all the north is densely hid  
 By an air-piled cloud-pyramid—

## 2.

Oh ! my Life's distant Spirit ! wert thou near,  
 I would not offer up this thought-born tear  
 On the dim altar of my solitude ;  
 For in the shadow of the coming Dark,

Which on the forehead of the East doth brood,  
 Thine eyes were floods of joy for my soul's bark :  
 But in my visions lonely  
 Thy spectral memory only  
 Proffers to my mute love an unsubstantial food.

X.

A K N E L L.

1.

O, how absurd to weep,  
 When the world is dissolving  
 And stars are revolving  
 To death,  
 That an insect should sleep  
 A slumber deep  
 Wherein is no vile breath !

2.

She is gone in her beauty—gone !  
 In the grave she is lying !  
 And I, on the blank earth sighing  
 Alone,  
 Despair !  
 Memories come blightinglly o'er me ;  
 All visions of Hope sink before me,  
 And the Sun seems a curse to the Air !



## 3.

O, dare I my life-blood pour  
On the sod of thy grave, dead Flower!  
With my blood the dry earth might devour  
    My grief!  
But dear ones yet linger beside me ;  
And still through all storms that betide me  
    Must shake my life's withering leaf!

## 4.

'Tis folly to weep ; to weep !  
Thou art but an atom, asleep.  
The Universe still rolls on—  
But I am alone ; alone !

XI.

T H E   V O W .

1.

For a kiss of that blood-rich mouth,  
     Whence low music is faintly flowing,  
         I pine—and not in vain ;  
     For the passion within me growing,  
 As from odorous flowers the south,  
         Breathes incense from my brain.

2.

And a song even now is gushing  
     From my soul, o'er the human world,  
         That may not basely die !  
     Like the bud of the rose, unfurl'd,  
 Lady ! why is thy fair cheek blushing ?  
         Sweet lady ! tell me why.

## 3.

By the youth in thy life-blood fleet !  
By the love that should fill thy heart !  
I'll kiss thee ere the moon  
Shall to-night from the stars depart ;  
And thy dream shall be strange as sweet  
Ere they in daylight swoon !

XII.

CONSOLATION.

1.

IN the sorrow of this silence  
Which I bear, from thee apart,  
I know I'm present still, Dear!  
With the blood in thy young heart.

2.

I know that i' the morn and eve,  
Whilst sitting by thy parlour-fire,  
Thy thoughts still turn to me, Dear!  
With the pining of desire.

3.

Through the green lanes and the woodlets  
As thou strayest, pensive-eyed,  
I know that in thy thoughts, Dear!  
I'm press'd to thy warm side.

XIII.

THE PORTRAIT.

1.

THE word of thy heart hath been broken—  
 I wear not thy sweet picture yet ;  
 Though with fondness the promise was spoken  
 Which Love cannot speak—and forget.

2.

'Tis false ; thine adorer blasphemes :  
 For what could dull painter achieve  
 Of portrait so true as these dreams  
 Of our Past in the Present can weave ?

3.

In my spirit thy features are drawn :  
 Thy lips open crimsonly there ;  
 And thine eyes shed their full moonlight dawn  
 Through the rich-floating clouds of thy hair.

## 4.

The word of thy heart is fulfill'd ;  
Of thy promise the import is plain :  
In my heart are thy features instill'd,  
And thy form is all limn'd in my brain !

XIV.

T H E   V E I L.

1.

As the sun in the heaven of day,  
 As the moon in the sky of night,  
 Thou takest thy lustrous way  
 Through my thoughts, in thy beauty's light :

2.

Shedding beauty and warmth and splendour  
 O'er the world of my heart and brain,  
 And with shadows of feeling tender  
 Far-streaking my memory's plain :

3.

Making glitter the streams of my thought ;  
 Expanding the flowers of my feeling,  
 Resplendent with sweet dews, caught  
 From the heaven of thy high revealing !

## 4.

As a glow-worm lies hid in the shroud  
Of its own exceeding light ;  
As a planet obscured in the cloud  
Which its splendour maketh bright—

## 5.

In my thought is thy beauty conceal'd ;  
In my heart hides thy passion pale—  
Their bright presence only reveal'd  
By the glory which is their veil.



XV.

THE HEART-THIRST.

1.

I THIRST for thy beauty, Dear !—  
 Sweet thirst in my spirit alway !  
 Of the flowers of my heart-spring, Dear !  
 The dew and the morning-ray.

2.

Again to hear thee speak, Dear !  
 Were to wake in the music of Heaven,  
 When the death-sleep is taken away, Dear !  
 And the life that sleeps never is given.

3.

Again the sight of thy smile, Dear !  
 Were a glance of the light of a star  
 Which ruleth the date of our life, Dear !  
 With a power that is near whilst afar.

4.

Again to see thee move, Dear !  
 Were to gaze on all visions of grace  
 Which the great bards sow thick in our air, Dear !  
 And our thoughts in their silence embrace.

5.

Again for our hands to clasp, Dear !  
 For the blood in our lips to converse,  
 Were a touch of that mystic power, Dear !  
 Which kindled the Universe.

6.

I thirst, I die for thy presence, Dear !  
 Pure thought in my spirit alway !  
 Of the bounding streams of my soul, Dear !  
 The sunlight on every spray !

XVI.

F A T A L I S M.

1.

THE flower must imbibe the dews  
 Whenever the bright dews bead it ;  
 To flow the stream cannot refuse  
 Whilst its springs with plenty feed it :

2.

The crystal lakes must reflect  
 The clouds and the planets pale ;  
 Trees must bend and their pride be wreck'd  
 In the breath of the mighty gale :

3.

Air hath no power to be free  
 Of the cloud and the wind and the lightning,  
 Which it draws from the earth and sea  
 In the hours of its purest brightning :

## 4.

Earth hath no self-arm'd defence  
 That can guard it from heat, frost and storm,  
 And must quail in the influence  
 Sun-suck'd from its own heart warm :

## 5.

And thy heart must shed into mine  
 Its joy and its grief together ;  
 And my soul sink as deeply in thine  
 As the stars lie engulf'd in the ether.

## 6.

For woe or for weal let it be,  
 For evil or good, life or death—  
 Love to us is as much a destiny  
 As to a babe is its breath !

## XVII.

## BEAUTY'S PREDICAMENT.

"TWIXT Passion and Indifference BEAUTY sat ;  
Prudence to this, Love swaying her to that :  
And thus Indifference with his cold mouth spoke :—  
" Most easy, Lady ! is my quiet yoke :  
I lead thee nor to trespass nor desire ;  
And hold thee temperate in the midst of fire !"  
Said Passion, with a voice all tremulous—  
His pale cheek crimson'd, eye diaphanous :—  
" O, fly me not for him to whom the sun,  
Moon, stars, in their blue-bedded union,  
Are but a common show ; whom flowers and song  
Charm to no feeling as he gropes along ;  
Who, meting all things with a niggard measure,  
Still coldly stagnates betwixt grief and pleasure ;  
And, freezing, in his cell doth sleep and die,  
With no heart his in all mortality !

O, turn to me ! for I can colour heaven,  
 And robe the grey morn and the purple even  
 In more than their own glory ; air and skies  
 Fill with dream'd memories of Paradise ;  
 And bid the earth teem with high thoughts and feelings  
 That for my listless foe have no revealings !  
 I with a word can wake heart-melody ;  
 I with a glance can make felicity ;  
 I with a touch can call up ecstasy !"—  
 And what did lady BEAUTY in this strait ?  
 As Prudence bade, to where Indifference sate  
 She turn'd, and seem'd to move : Love nearer flew,  
 And an invisible chain so round her threw,  
 That, whilst to reach Indifference she tried,  
 He drew her deftly to sweet Passion's side ;  
 And fix'd her there a prisoner, rapt and bound.  
 But long she breathed not on this human ground !  
 What chanced was sad : in that new, warm controul,  
 She died amid the sweets of her own soul—  
 Just as poor bees, in station over-sunny,  
 Are drown'd i' the hive of their own molten honey.

XVIII.

T H A T   D A Y.

1.

THE sun, dear ! the sun, dear !  
     Had a voice in his every ray,  
 To tell thee, dear ! tell thee, dear !  
     Who was waiting for thee that day.

2.

The birds were singing sweetly, dear !  
     Upon every sun-gilt spray ;  
 And this said all their songs, dear !  
     “ Why comes she not here this day ? ”

3.

The water was rippling brightly, dear !  
     In its old restless way ;  
 And every ripple laugh'd, dear !  
     To see me alone that day.

4.

The daisy from the grass, dear !  
 Peep'd up, in its own sweet way,  
 With a sister flower by its side, dear !  
 More blest than was I that day !

5.

The winds were breathing sweetly, dear !  
 And kissing, in their warm play,  
 Kissing my brow and my lips, dear !  
 More fond than thou that day !

6.

The bud on the naked bough, dear !  
 Seem'd to start from the old decay ;  
 Call'd forth by the sudden shine, dear !  
 More inspired than thou that day.

7.

The new-fallen lamb from the sod, dear !  
 Arose, with but brief delay ;  
 And blithly follow'd its dam, dear !  
 More alive than thou that day.



8.

The clouds, dear ! the clouds, dear !  
Were each touch'd by a loving ray ;  
And I the only cloud, dear !  
That sullenly look'd that day.

9.

All things enjoy'd the sun, dear !  
And smiled, in their spring-time way ;  
But I could not enjoy the sun, dear !  
For the want of thy smile that day.

XIX.

A PLEA FOR ABSENCE.

1.

THERE is ice in my heart,  
 There is fire in my brain :  
 Oh ! let me depart,  
 Nor behold thee again !

2.

Upbraid me not, Dearest !  
 My destiny calls me ;  
 Not the death which thou fearest,  
 But oblivion appals me :

3.

I would wave with the bough,  
 I would sing with the bird,  
 With the wild waters flow,  
 In the thunder be heard ;

## 4.

In the sunbeams flash bright'ning,  
 With the flower shed perfume,  
 Blaze electric in lightning,  
 In the tempest be gloom :

## 5.

I would breathe with the wind,  
 With the stars be all-seeing ;  
 I would live in the mind  
 And be part of its being !

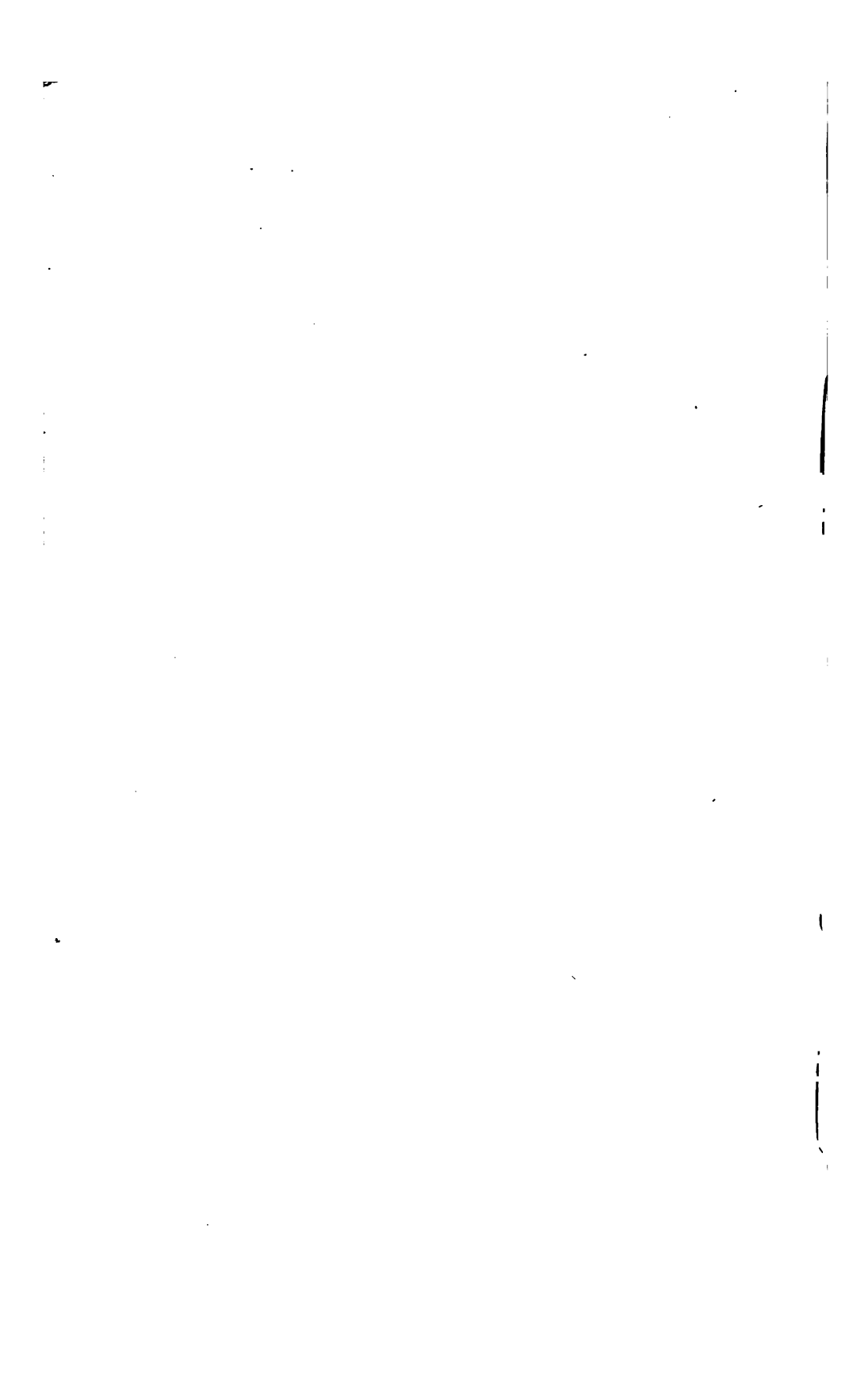
## 6.

Then must nothing molest  
 The proud flight I pursue ;  
 I shut love from my breast,  
 Thy dear eyes from my view :

## 7.

But when wrung with the toil  
 Of the thought-weaving brain,  
 Round thy heart will I coil—  
 And ne'er leave thee again !

**SONNETS.**



## I.

## INDIRECTION.

## 1.

LADY ! I know not what dark spell inthrals me,  
 Shutting dear Beauty from my senseless soul !  
 List I thy music ? A dread accent calls me  
 Unto Death's sepulchre, or grass-green knoll !  
 Feel I thy little hand, fast closed in mine,  
 A lily field, fair-river'd with clear blue ?  
 I clasp Death's icy fingers ; and combine  
 Therewith mine own, till they grow lifeless too !  
 Or gaze I on thine eyes, my own eyes' glass,  
 Where Light hath made two azure palaces ?  
 Death's sockets fright me ; and obscurely pass  
 Worms through their blanks, and fouler things than these !  
 Press I my lips upon thy queenly brow ?  
 I bite the dust of graves, and graveward grow !

## 2.

There is a matchless beauty in thine eye,  
Where gentle Love, as in a temple, dwells ;  
But there the shadow of Mortality  
Lies deeply buried, and a sigh compels  
From those who look into the gloom of things,  
And see Decay lurk in the floweret-bells ;  
And black Corruption in the brightest springs ;  
And deadly Famine where the harvest swells ;  
And a dry Desert where the forest rings  
With the glad songs of spring's wing'd oracles ;  
Storms in the clearest sky, and in the spheres  
A Chaos ! Unto such, thy smiles are tears ;  
And the bright beauty of thy love-lit eye  
Full of the shadow of Mortality !

## II.

## REMEMBER THEE?

AND dost thou doubt that I remember thee,  
Because no word of thee adorn'd my letter?  
Oh, God! by my dark fate which is to be,  
And by the sorrows my strong soul that fetter—  
My innate gloom of spirit—I do swear  
To my rack'd heart, an oath religious there,  
That my mad soul unto thy memory sighs,  
As the lost traveller to the only star  
That lit his path, now dying in the clouds:  
O, mournful is the gloom my sky that shrouds,  
And my calm hopes betost in tempest are;  
Yet 'mid my sadness thoughts of thee remain;  
And the deep light of thy unfellow'd eyes  
Hath graven fiery records on my brain!



## III.

## “MANY;” YET, BUT “ONE.”

SAY, I love “Many”—well, dear soul! I do;  
But the bright object of my love is “One :”  
I love a thousand flowers, of every hue,  
For all are beautiful, though similar none;  
I love a thousand stars, for all are bright,  
And with their radiant beauty cleave the sight :  
Then, though I have, as thy sweet lips complain,  
On many a lip of ruby banqueted;  
Of many a bright eye the rich-streaming rain  
Of light drunk with my soul, then nectar-fed;  
’Tis the same spirit I adore in all;  
And must, till mine, or Reason’s funeral :  
’Tis the one deity of Beauty I  
In many a matchless temple deify.

## IV.

## A HYMN TO MELANCHOLY.

ON the soft rose of her most vernal cheek  
 My warm lips take their banquet tremblingly :  
 She is not angry—no ; nor doth she speak ;  
 But her soul argues from her rich-ray'd eye,  
 By of bright tears a starry embassy,  
 That herald solace—Ah ! my Spirit's Woe !  
 Thy moody fit hath prompted, in an hour,  
 More than had ever issued from the flow  
 Of Joy, vine-crown'd with all rejoicing power.  
 Oh ! then I bless thee, god-born Melancholy !  
 And thou art wisdom, though fools call thee folly :  
 The brief duration of my lone life's dower  
 Fleets to extinction ; but, heart-led by thee,  
 I've raised a flower to scent Eternity.

## V.

## T H E   C H A N G E .

THAT day, since which the earth-saluting sun  
Hath seven times gilt the forehead of the sky,  
Nature was joyous ; and thou, gentle one !  
Sat beaming on me with thy heaven-starr'd eye,  
Whose radiant glory mine drank flashingly :  
Our cheeks held union, like two roses meeting ;  
Our lips communed, with love's intemperate greeting ;  
Our sighs convulsed each other, and the hour  
Drew half its deadly depths of fearful sweetness,  
From the conviction that our passion's flower,  
Brief bud and blossom, grew with dying fleetness.  
Now all the air is cloud ; and I am cheating  
My utter sorrow with a dream of thee—  
Making a substance of shade memory.

## VI.

## THE GLOW-WORM.

WHEN once I kiss'd thee, my soul's Idol new !  
A little glow-worm was our love's sole witness ;  
Whose pretty lamp gleam'd with its emerald hue,  
But shadows broke not, weeting well their fitness :  
And since, I often have comparison'd  
Its fairy light to thee and thy dear love—  
Lit up in twilight late, the broad day shunn'd ;  
Glowing a glory in the world's dim grove ;  
Held in thy heart as that within its bush—  
This painting leaves with light, that cheeks with blush ;  
And then, for thy fair self—just such a light  
As throbb'd from that sweet summer-lamp of eve,  
Came melting from thine eyes on my dark sight,  
And did my lit soul with bright chains enweave.

## VII.

## THE RIVER.

WHEN last we gazed upon that happy river,  
Whose bliss those mantled boughs bend low to share,  
'Twas bright as heaven, and the bounteous giver  
Back of their beauty to the things above it ;  
And we as tranquil as its waters were,  
That with the eyes of love look'd down to love it :  
But now, the thick mists of the morn are o'er it,  
Hanging like fate above its flowing life ;  
And musing now alone, I thus deplore it—  
'Tis with the image of our own lot rife ;  
For o'er our bosoms hath the mist of sorrow  
Swept shroudingly—and thence this grief I borrow :  
The river through its sun-pierced veil shall peer,  
The morning of our hearts may never clear.

## VIII.

## THE LETTER.

THE set sun of my joy again ariseth :  
 By thy sweet letter is my soul revived ;  
 And as a sudden lamp dark sleep surpriseth,  
 Thy greeting starts my heart, in slumber gyved.  
 Thou hast wept o'er the closure of thy page ;  
 And weeping words with weeping tears are blotted—  
 From the same fount that hath from age to age  
 Gush'd with the dew to all fond thoughts allotted :  
 Oh ! they do seem the eloquent presage  
 Of bliss hereafter, sweet, though sorrow-spotted.  
 On " pity," " love me," " cherish," and " forget,"  
 Have drops downfallen—the sweet words still seem wet :  
 Thus, thus on dry tears I moist tears let fall—  
 Would they were on thy cheek, whose rose would tinge  
 them all !

## IX.

## P O S S E S S I O N .

THOSE lips are mine ! for on them I have set  
 The living seal of passionate possession :  
 Those brows are mine, which like a coronet  
 Arch o'er her sweet eyes, in their royal session  
 Of high debate concerning ecstasy,  
 How it may hold off grief ! for on them I  
 Have breathed the flush'd soul of idolatry :  
 Mine those debaters high ! and mine those tresses  
 Which hold my falcon spirit in their jesses !  
 Mine that white hand, inlaid with tracery  
 Of delicate blue ! and mine that globed shrine,  
 Where Love dwells pantingly !—All, all is mine !—  
 Nor do I but possess them by a name ;  
 But the true heart-lord of those riches am !

## X.

## R E S E M B L A N C E.

SWEET lights and shades from outward objects stealing  
 O'er the receiving tablet of the eye,  
 Form pictures there, that to the inner feeling  
 Give colour'd impresses ; which Memory  
 Stores in her galleries of glorious Art,  
 Holding a magic order in each part ;  
 That when again like combinations strike,  
 The past springs to the present, seen alike ;  
 Not clearer, present, to the present eye,  
 Than past, made present by woke memory :  
 Nay, not so clear ; for that sweet face I view,  
 Soft light and shade to my fix'd sight revealing,  
 Glows not so real, in its faintest hue,  
 As that resembled face, eternal in my feeling.



## XI.

## THE WRITTEN PORTRAIT.

WERE I a Painter, I would fix thee now !—  
Thy dark hair, with its thick-entangled curls,  
Hanging like silken clouds by either brow ;  
Thy forehead peering o'er, more white than pearls ;  
Thine eyes, with a bright glory just ascended  
From the Elysium of thy beating heart ;  
Thy cheeks, deep-flush'd with roses, all unblended  
With the pale lily, whose demurer art  
Plays round thy lips, whose exquisite carnation  
Closes and opes, as mirth's sweet inspiration  
Comes o'er them, like a zephyr whose soft wing  
With freshening dew is laden—Lo ! 'tis traced :  
Thy picture glows in words ; a colouring  
Whose hues are fire—And shall they be effaced ?

## XII.

## “ HERE ” AND “ THERE.”

THE trees are Here in equal majesty ;  
As beautiful, though mellow'd by the year  
From pleasure into thought : flowers, too, are Here ;  
As sweet, and sun-died in their livery :  
And Here are gurgling brooks and rivulets ;  
And hills and vales, more lofty far and deep ;  
Round which the sun in holier glory sets,  
Moon and stars rise, and wild winds wake and sleep,  
And glad birds sing as sweetly : rocks are Here,  
And the vast deep they gird, which were not There :  
Then, why this sense of utter vacancy,  
That weighs upon my heart and dims my eye ?  
She is not Here who blest me in the night !—  
Gone like the fairy lamps that lent us light !

## XIII.

## THE RING.

As the blue Girdle of the Universe  
Doth all the warring elements enclose  
That battle through the sphered Infinity—  
Winds, lightning, thunder, light, and heat, and life,  
And all the glories in our vision rife  
Around the orb on which we dream and die :  
So one mind's universe of joys and woes ;  
Of passions that make all our bliss a curse ;  
Of smiles, sighs, tears and laughter ; and the treasure  
(For bane or good, as well or ill applied)  
Which lurks within the heart's rich-veined mine—  
Seems circled by this gold's enchanted measure,  
Which doth engird the deity divine  
That breatheth through the Soul's Creation wide.

## • XIV.

## THE BANQUET.

BESIDE the blazing hearth we silent stood,  
Both lonely in our feelings and our fate,  
And faint in frame and mind : a cloud of blood  
Rose to her cheek, and from its bosom darted  
Ethereal lightning to her eye sedate,  
Which then flash'd gorgeously—I stood the same ;  
Her sweet lips quiver'd like the glow-worm's flame  
When the winds rave—yet stood I inward-hearted ;  
My hands were clasp'd in hers—my soul was dead ;  
At length her lips, breathing Love's balmy south,  
Made fresh my feverish hand—I woke, and fed  
Upon the loveliest and the rosiest mouth  
That ever gated the rich life of breath—  
And there would feed, even when they banquet Death !

## XV.

## THE HELL-MIST.

WE walk in hell ! for, reeking from the river,  
Dense vapours roll upon the atmosphere,  
Making a murky horror in the air ;  
Till, gall'd in sense and sight, all life doth quiver,  
And many a gasping heart groans forth a prayer  
For death, before such life. Enchantress dear !  
Whose wand is beauty, on the lustre clear  
Of thy sweet eyes I fix a constant gaze,  
Lest in the infernal and condensing maze  
I lose all memory of light, and rave ;  
For darkness wraps the earth as in a grave,  
Where they alone are radiant. Near ! more near !  
Let me not lose the Elysium of one beam ;  
A real thing in this infernal dream !

## XVI.

## MOTHER AND CHILD.

SWEET rose-cheek'd infant of a blue-eyed mother !  
Thou beauteous germ, sprung from a glorious blossom !  
That liest on thy parent's streaming bosom,  
Fair as a rainbow on the blue-vein'd sky,  
Or sunbeams on a bed of roses white.  
Art thou the embodied spirit of delight,  
That feedest even on woe ? Oh ! let me smother  
Thine infant lids with kisses, as they lie  
Half-closed upon thy yearning mother's breast,  
From whence thou drainest life in ecstasy !  
Couldst thou but know the sorrow which is guest  
Of the fond heart that feeds thee, thou wouldst weep  
A piteous fountain from thine innocent eye,  
And thy nectarious food in the salt crystal steep.

## XVII.

## THE DREAM.

I DREAM'D the lady whom I love was dying—  
Was dead, and in eternal silence lying ;  
Whilst I, as is my wont, to hide the feeling  
That rent my inmost heart of life asunder,  
Affected laughter, and awhile pretended  
To read some page of wondrous poesy—  
(The Northern Ploughman's 'twas) but quickly ended  
That fearful struggle at despair-concealing ;  
And an electric grief fell loud as thunder,  
Withering as lightning, on my brain and heart :  
Upon the floor, groaning and ravingly,  
I dash'd my forehead, and wild shriek'd aloud ;  
Until, methought, she leapt out of her shroud,  
And hail'd me *Dead*—and we no more did part.

## XVIII.

## THE PICTURE.

THE shades of night around thy portrait, Dear !  
Are gather'd, till thy semblance waneth dim ;  
And what awhile ago like thee was clear,  
Shews indistinct in feature and in limb :  
And such hereafter will the shadows be  
On thy sweet image in my memory .  
Taper and fire, with artificial light,  
Give back thy painted likeness to the sight ;  
And fancy in far years to come may shed  
Brightness on recollection, and again  
Stamp thee upon my soul. Ah ! darkness fled,  
Another morn will on thy picture rain ;  
But know I not what sun can e'er restore  
That morning of my heart which passeth o'er.



## XIX.

## THE MIRTH OF SORROW.

THE sorrows of my nature well thou knowest,  
Thou who canst feel for those who deeply feel ;  
And in thy heart's esteem were I the lowest,  
That gentle heart should not thus all reveal  
Its grief and anger at the fitful mood  
Which, wounding those I cherish, breaks the sadness  
That else would sink me into listless madness,  
And turn to poison what is now my food,  
Sweeten'd by these wild startings : solitude  
Had seen me at thy feet in silence kneeling,  
And weeping on thy lap, Dew of my Years !  
What outlet, when forbidding eyes intrude,  
For my o'erflowing soul's tempestuous feeling,  
But that mad mirth ?—It now is calm'd in tears.

## XX.

## THE SORROW OF MIRTH.

Oh ! anything but that unfeeling mirth,  
Those heartless snatches of unmeaning song !  
It is assumption merely, and hath birth  
In deepest sadness ; and the effort's need  
That galls my spirit with indifference seeming,  
In its re-action will but prove more strong  
The chain that is around thee : let us weed  
Our hearts of briars, and leave one sweet flower  
To drink the dews of love and the bright beaming  
Of thought's internal joy ! Shall every shower  
That will pour down from life's still-changing sky  
Make the rich blossom veil its peerless eye  
And stoop its nectar'd beauty to the sod ?  
Then must it wither soon ; and to dull earth be trod !

## XXI.

## THE SYMBOL.

THE mystic Circle of Eternity

For ever is around our souls revolving :

Sweet flowers are circular ; sweet fruits are orb'd,

And in Time's circle live and are absorb'd,

As we and all things ; in the circled sky,

The rounded earth and moon, each planet sphered,

Wheel round the mighty circle of the sun

In orb'd motion, true and self-involving :

The myriad fiery cirques that robe the azure,

Beaming a golden glory without measure

From the blue height of their constellate throne,

Bear the same sacred figure. This gemm'd ring,

By Nature's great religion thus endear'd,

Symbols my love—a centre-circling thing.

## XXII.

## TO HER LOVER.

" I AM most wretched, Dear ! to see you merry ;  
 Smiling, and raising smiles on others' cheeks ;  
 Whilst with a sad face in my heart I bury  
 A passionate love for thee, which almost breaks  
 My spirit with its great power : to hear you laugh  
 And jest amid the free and empty-hearted  
 And gather seeming pleasure from all eyes,  
 When from within me hath all sense departed  
 Of joy, save that which in your fondness lies,  
 And bliss from thine eyes only can I quaff—  
 My heart is eaten by its inward sighs ;  
 For all thy gentle vows seem mockeries :  
 But even then thine eyes to mine will turn  
 With a soft-lighted love, that cannot falsely burn !"

## XXIII.

## UNRAVELMENT.

I know full well, Sweet ! why thou canst not bear  
That I should take me to my books and pen,  
Though they make light the heavy garb I wear  
Of doubt and thought, that folds my spirit within  
Her shrouded self: thou lov'st me—that I know ;  
And so around me do thy feelings grow,  
Thou canst not turn thee from the one great theme  
For ever of fond hearts the restless dream :  
And therefore it disturbs thee to behold  
Thy lover, with a perseverance cold,  
Pursue the great heart-business of his being—  
To win beyond the grave a sense and seeing.  
But, oh ! content thee : in his absence long  
Thou art the breathing soul of half his song !

## XXIV.

## T H E   W O O D.

WHY, here we are alone : the dark trees wave  
 Their fingery branches in the ceaseless wind ;  
 And grass and moss the tangled pathway pave,  
 Where daisies lift their heads, in vestal guise,  
 And open their snow-white and pinky eyes  
 In beauty which the shadows of the wood  
 Too chastely cloister.   Let me read the mind  
 Which gushes o'er thine aspect, like a flood,  
 And thence draw warranty.   It is derived !  
 In that eye-glory is my passion shrived !  
 Our lips kiss quiveringly ; again !—no more !—  
 Thy very life seems stifled in held breath,  
 And a dim shadow sweeps thine eyelids o'er—  
 A nearer greeting were delirious death !

## XXV.

## T H E   C R O N E.

BELDAM ! Why hither must thy slow feet stray,  
 To gather dry sticks for thy desolate hearth,  
 Whose fire thou feedest with that scanty fuel,  
 To keep thine old blood warm whilst winds are cruel ?  
 Amid the myriad pathways of the earth,  
 Was there no other for thy groping way  
 Than this, thou crooked and time-eaten hag !  
 Wherein thy witch-like presence hath enchanted  
 Hearts from the brink of bliss on which they panted ?  
 Were diamonds hung upon thine every rag,  
 And thy crook'd crutch a wand of Fairyland,  
 To work all alchemy at thy command,  
 Love's church should ne'er absolve thee, hoary Crone !  
 Of the foul sacrilege thine eyes have done.

## XXVI.

## THREE DISCOURSES ON ONE TEXT.

## 1.

"It is because I love you so"—It is !  
 It is because you love me that you tremble,  
 Like wind-touch'd foliage, at my gentlest kiss :  
 I fear to kiss thee ; thou canst not dissemble :  
 But as an ancient sibyl, when inspired  
 By her presiding god, all o'er did quiver,  
 Like the dash'd surface of a storm-swept river,  
 And show'd without that she within was fired—  
 Thou, shaken by the mystic spirit of love,  
 Betray'st its inward workings to all eyes.  
 Ah, Sweet ! concealment doth the heart behove ;  
 And they who would be blest must stifle sighs :  
 Then, if thou lov'st me, do not love betray ;  
 But underneath a cloak let us have sunny way.



## 2.

" It is because I love you so"—By Love !  
 There is more poesy in that sweet phrase  
 Than in all songs of old, or later days :  
 A doting sorrow in me it doth move,  
 And a strange quailing of the heart, which shaketh  
 Like calmest waters ere the thick rain breaketh  
 From the sky's clouded breast. Would we had never  
 Stolen each other's secret with our eyes ;  
 But let it in deep veilings sleep for ever !  
 A curse awaits on Nature's sympathies ;  
 And they are blest whose souls are cold and free :  
 And yet I would not, for Eternity,  
 Cancel one moment of the dreamy past  
 On which the shadows of our hearts were cast !

## 3.

" It is because I love you so"—It is !  
 The deadly poison of deep love is in thee,  
 Which thou hast gather'd from my touch and kiss.  
 It is because you love : a deity

Featured and form'd for eyes' idolatry,  
Though he should greet thee with essential love,  
Could not thy being so divinely move  
As these my mortal lips, didst thou adore not :  
O, hallow'd be the day I sought to win thee !  
And the indelible past do thou deplore not ;  
For though thy passion be now check'd and blighted  
By the cold air of present circumstance—  
(Poets are Prophets, and dispute with Chance !)  
Some hour a sun shall rise, and thy heart's world be lighted.

## XXVII.

## P R O M I S E.

I go ; but, do not weep !—I will remember  
Thine every accent till we meet again ;  
The bright fire of my love shall ne'er know ember,  
But purely burn, like to the soul of wine :  
I'll think and dream of thee ; I'll ne'er recline  
To slumber, but I'll wish my couch were thine ;  
Nor wake, and sigh not for thee : and by letter  
I'll break the distance which our love doth fetter,  
And speak to thee in love-born characters ;  
And on the wide sea-waving of my verse  
A rich shower of sweet thoughts of thee shall rain,  
And stories of our hearts will I rehearse :  
Let this assurance stanch thy bleeding woe—  
Thine image follows me where'er I go.

## XXVIII.

## T H E   S H A M E.

“ It is a shame that we are forced to part !”—

It is a shame to pluck sweet flower from flower,

That offer incense to each other's heart ;

It is a shame that dew on flowerets met

Should be dispersed by the casual wind ;

It is a shame the sun should ever set,

And rob the warm world of his kiss of fire ;

That ever clouds before the stars should lower,

And hold the earth from her intense desire

Of gazing on her sister spheres above :

But still these shames will be, and more than these,

In this still-changing world ; and, therefore, Love

Must bear his sorrows with enduring mind,

Diving in his deep heart for sorrow's ease.

## XXIX.

## A R E P L Y.

" How canst thou ask to have long letters from me,  
 When thou art far away? My thoughts and hopes  
 And dreamings thou still read'st with love-learn'd eye,  
 And they change not; that no variety  
 May give relief to my heart-heavy words;  
 And thou wilt tire of sameness."—So the birds  
 Might to the lone Earth sing when spring is gone,  
 Summer and autumn too, and winter opes  
 His cold eyes o'er the world: but 'tis their voice,  
 Piping to her lorn ear at intervals,  
 That bids her in her lonely plight rejoice  
 And dream on future greetings. Do not doom me  
 To restless doubt; but let the dew which falls  
 From Love's full pen cheer my Life's floweret lone!

XXX.

## THE EVE OF ABSENCE.

THOU sittest silent amid strangers, Dear !  
And I am going far from thy fond heart :  
Thy cheeks are pale, and in thine eyes a tear  
Starts, and its orb'd world is dim with sorrow ;  
For thou art musing on a blank to-morrow.  
But, cheating distance, let us still be near  
In waking thoughts and vivid dreams of love ;  
And from our heart's worn ark send memory's dove  
In search of rest from passion's sorrow-flood !  
In body, not in soul, we wholly part ;  
And still our thoughts shall be right spiritual food,  
To feed the pining dotage which we bear  
Craving within our spirits.—Yet I moan ;  
Leaving thee sad, 'mid joy ; and in a crowd, alone.

## XXXI.

## THE PENCILLED LETTER.

“ I AM not o’ermuch charm’d with this same dwelling :  
How poor, to the rich memory of the past !  
I have thy vow, that when night’s shades are cast  
Over the world, thy far heart shall be swelling  
With thoughts of me and love. I need not tell  
How, dreaming, or wide-waking, I shall be  
For ever with thee. Ceaselessly I dwell  
On the drear pangs of utter desolation  
Which I must feel when thou art gone from me.  
And, oh ! I pant with fearful expectation  
Of our next greeting. Dearest ! love me still :  
I know new objects must thy spirit fill ;  
But yet, I pray thee, do not love me less.  
This write I where I dress.—Bless thee ! for ever, bless !”

## THE ANSWER.

## 1.

Here in my lone abode again I sit,  
With a tired heart, for ever toward thee yearning ;  
And visions of thee, in all aspects, flit  
Before my sleepy eyes, that cannot sleep,  
Kept open by my troubled mind's discerning.  
Through the long night sad vigils did I keep ;  
And spectres of thee, and imaginings,  
Were in me and around me. I did weep,  
To think on all thy love ; and all the grief  
Which must disturb thy spirit in its springs,  
After our hurried parting, when relief  
Of tears or sighs was by our state forbidden ;  
And our one heart was as a folded leaf  
In which oracular characters are hidden.

## 2.

But, then ; the thought—the deep, prophetic thought,  
That in this being we should meet again,



Did still the turbulent sorrow of my soul ;  
 And my sweet hopes kiss'd thine—but had no fear ;  
 For a triumphant flag did passion rear,  
 That stream'd into the future, glory-fraught !  
 I cannot cease to love thee : though the chain  
 Of this world is around me, its controul  
 Is feeble ; for the powers of love and song  
 Wave a magician's wand above my spirit,  
 And sway me with a talisman divine  
 Which I resist not : others may inherit  
 My heart's wild perfume ; but the flower is thine.  
 This read where thou didst write.—All blessings round thee  
 throng !

## XXXII.

## THE TOKEN-FLOWERS.

“ I HAVE been gazing on those eloquent flowers—  
The love-named ‘ heart’s-ease’ and ‘ forget-me-not’—  
Which thou didst give me in those last sweet hours  
That beam’d quick life before our death of parting.  
They are both wither’d !—That the first should die,  
To my repining heart is nothing strange ;  
For never heart’s ease fell to passion’s lot  
In this woe-weary world, where chance and change  
Still drug joy’s purest cup with misery.  
But my soul sighs, and to my eye is starting  
A thoughtful tear, to think the last must perish :  
Oh ! I would have it live until the hour  
When thy remembrance, Dear ! I cease to cherish—  
What an undying thing were then that sacred flower !”

## XXXIII.

## A MYSTERY'S SOLUTION.

## 1.

" I CANNOT tell you why ; but evèr when  
 I'm most depress'd in spirit, I still think  
 Incessantly of you."—I'll tell thee why :  
 When of affliction's cup our spirits drink,  
 By the sad chances of the world fill'd high,  
 They sink into the bosom's inmost cell,  
 And from the feeling there most spiritual  
 Draw solace, though great grief within it dwell—  
 As the bee honey from the poison-flower.  
 One object lurketh in the souls of men,  
 Which still they look to with eternal eye,  
 Outgazing death ! and with an unseen power  
 It swayeth action ; 'tis the all-in-all  
 That prompts the doings which men *Madness* call :

## 2.

And by this moved—when sorrow, or annoyance  
Besets life's common path with weed and briar,  
That all surrounding things seem void of joyance  
And life a wretched clod 'twixt frost and fire—  
Thou turn'st for refuge to the only feeling  
Thou carriest with thee in all thoughts of heaven ;  
And love pervades thee, with a deep revealing  
Of dews and flowers, and meadows green and even,  
And gushing rivulets, and sunny vales,  
Inlaid with waving shadows, and calm nooks,  
And songs of birds and leaf-attuning gales ;  
All poetry of nature and of books,  
Of passion-minglings and communings sweet—  
And on a far-off shore all thy heart's billows beat !

## XXXIV.

## P R E S E N C E.

“ To-day, continually—at least, in thought—  
Have you been my companion”—O, that thought  
Could conjure what is real from the air,  
And place it, warm and living, in our arms !  
Then had we clasp’d each other ; and repair  
Made to the shadows of the woods around,  
And revell’d in the intermingling charms  
Of Nature’s outward, Love’s internal glory !  
Yet there’s a spiritual presence—in a sound,  
A bird, a flower, a leaf, poetic story—  
Of those with whom we’ve joy’d in them and love  
In the sweet past : there glows a memory  
Richly round all things, when the sacred dove  
Of Thought sits on the heart, brooding eternally.

## XXXV.

## THE IMPOSSIBILITY.

"ERE many years are o'er—when, it may be,  
 We shall be almost strangers to each other"—  
 I mark not what doth follow ; for there flee  
 Thoughts toward my spirit which poor eyesight smother  
 And prostrate outward sense to that within.  
 We never can be strangers : in our being  
 Each unto each is an eternal presence,  
 That mingles with us in all grief, or pleasance,  
 Breathes in our worship, sins in all our sin,  
 Beats in our heart, and sees in all our seeing !  
 And what though death come, like a cloud, between us,  
 And in the dust of graves our warm veins lie ?  
 This but concerns the veil which here doth screen us  
 From the soul-filling light of God's own eye.

## XXXVI.

## THE "AMEN."

"THOUGH thereby I do lose what more I prize  
Than all things else most dear to sense, or soul,  
Your heart's engrossing love ; yet do I pray  
That you may brighten on Fame's starry way,  
And reach in triumph that sky-templed goal  
To which for ever turn poetic eyes !"—  
'Amen ! Amen !'—a fervent, loud 'Amen !'  
Bursts from my lips, with all the wild sea's passion  
When it leaps high to clasp the thunder-storm !  
And even now, whilst from my trembling pen  
My mind flows on my page, in fitful fashion,  
I seem to live in death in some dim form,  
Whose blood is even a voice ! Nor art thou wrong'd ;  
For thus thy being is with mine prolong'd.

## XXXVII.

## F I D E L I T Y.

WHENE’ER I play thee false, my distant lover !  
And drink delight from other eyes than thine,  
Thine eyes start in the air, more bright than wine,  
And pour into my soul reproof divine ;  
And then in love-thoughts, like a lark in clover,  
My hush’d heart sweetly broods ; and I repent me  
That e’er to do thee wrong I could content me.  
Whene’er I play thee false, my distant beauty !  
From other lips than thine sweet nectar pressing,  
Between the ruby tempters to my treason,  
And mine, the traitors, do thy lips ope, blessing  
The air with balm ; and back to their dear duty  
Recal my senses and their absent reason ;  
And I am very faithful—for a season.



## XXXVIII.

## THE MORTAL MUSE.

O, τῆου, my Inspiration ! from afar  
 Lighting my fancy, as the sun the star—  
 Distance shades not thy glory from my sight ;  
 But through the mediate air I drink thy light,  
 And with the beam of thy reflected love  
 Am kindled and instinct ! My thought doth move,  
 In planetary state, through passion's sky,  
 Around the sun-like centre of thine eye ;  
 And, subtle made by that refining fire,  
 Exhales in breath, which floateth o'er my lyre  
 And stirreth the sweet concord of its springs,  
 Till Poesy opes wide her rainbow-wings ;  
 And, through an universe of smiles and tears,  
 Wafts to communion with the wild-voiced spheres !

## XXXIX.

TO

"THE CONSTELLATED FLOWER, THAT NEVER SETS."

THOU lowly flower ! be thou exalted ever ;  
 Sphered in the eternal arch of poesy !  
 For thou art a memorial, failing never,  
 Of the heart's holiest throb in dreams gone by.  
 Here, where the accursed tread of men-machines,  
 Drill'd to the art of slaughter, beats thee down—  
 (And fit it is not that in martial scenes  
 Thou shouldst lift up thy love-presiding crown)  
 Here, where no eye but mine adores thy star ;  
 No foot but mine to crush thy heart refuseth ;  
 Thou to my spirit speak'st of meads afar,  
 Till with a weight of love my bosom museth ;  
 And with my Lady dear I bless the scene  
 Where thy white constellations star the green.

## XL.

## LOVE AND POESY.

" I HAVE not poesy ; but I have love."  
 Thou hast both poesy and love, dear Heart !  
 For Love is of himself a poesy.  
 By his creative power a world is wove  
 Of thoughts and dreams, that to his spectred eye  
 A presence like reality impart ;  
 Making the joy he loves, by his sweet art !  
 And what can heavenly Poesy do more ?  
 All is a vision which she doth adore :  
 Fine Poesy and Love are still the same ;  
 Save that warm Love is happier, and perchance  
 May substance find whereon to feed his flame,  
 And purchase sigh with sigh and glance with glance ;  
 But Poesy loves shadows, without place or name.

## XLI.

TO

"THE PEARLED ARCTURI OF THE EARTH."

O, GRACE of meadows green and mossy banks !  
 Eternal Flower ! still constant to the Year ;  
 When April with bright hair his forehead pranks,  
 Or when his locks turn grey in winter drear.  
 Blest be the hour I taught my Lady's heart  
 To hold thy beauty in its inmost feeling ;  
 To love thee better that thou humble art,  
 And op'st thine eye with such a sweet revealing  
 Of quiet joy ! for now she cannot stray  
 Through field, or grove ; or lane, by hedge-rows green ;  
 But she must greet thy pink lips, by the way—  
 Thy white-ray'd cirques of gold, for ever seen !  
 And thus her thoughts to me must still be turn'd,  
 From whom the love she bears thy gem she learn'd.

## XLII.

## OF THE POEMS OF SHAKSPEARE.

WHAT? tear away that poesy divine  
Of Venus and her Boy—sweet purple flower!  
On whom she doted with a love like thine  
For him whose heart beats at that wondrous song?  
Of gentle Lucrece and her cruel wrong?  
The Passionate Pilgrim's tears?—a rainbow-shower!  
And the fair Lover's eloquent Complaint?  
As full of fine thought as a hive of honey,  
When the sweet bees fulfil their labours sunny!  
O, leave such outrage to the dismal saint;  
To man and woman that in secret sin,  
And fear earth more than heaven: but do not thou  
Assume the hypocrite, and basely win  
A crown of seeming for thy truth-fair brow!

## XLIII.

## T O E L E C T R A.

As that Philosopher of regions cold,  
Too idly dallying with the etherial fire  
The Trans-Atlantic from its cloudy hold  
Taught to unloose, did in its power expire ;  
The martyr of an infinite desire  
To unveil secrets high ; so I, approaching  
Too nigh the electric force of beauteous eyes,  
Suffer the penalty of that encroaching,  
And in their fluid light my spirit dies !  
Oh ! fan it back to life with thy sweet sighs ;  
Or loose thy long locks o'er me, as the moon  
Spreads her soft rays over a flower asleep ;  
That I may waken from this tranced swoon,  
And into life again, rekindled, leap !

## XLIV.

## THE HEART-FAVOURITE.

As in the capitals of Scythian kings  
Abode more sacred and distinguish'd grew  
The nigher it approach'd the sovereign view,  
So nearness to thy beauty honour brings.  
The slave that dwells within thy gaze afar  
Doth pride him on that distant preference;  
And who thy vision quite forbidden are  
Holds dark as reptiles in a forest dense.  
Oh ! then, to what advancement am I raised,  
Who in the palace of thy heart abide !  
And marvel none that, with a favourite's pride,  
On outer suitors I in scorn have gazed :  
Yet fear not I, as baser minions do,  
Slander the love whence I my greatness drew.

## XLV.

## LOVE-WORSHIP.

WHEN I do hear my Love's most holy name  
Blasphemed by vulgar and degenerate lips,  
My heart is moved with a pious shame  
That words profane should heavenliest shrines eclipse :  
Then burn I with a votary's indignation ;  
And, with the fervour of my faith elate,  
Would force those ministers of desecration  
With blood my deity propitiate !  
Yet would a stream so foul pollute her altar,  
Where love is sole-accepted sacrifice ;  
Therefore my hand refrains, my speech doth falter ;  
I leave them to the curse of their device :  
Who worships spirit needs not war, indeed,  
On dull idolaters, to prove his creed.



## XLVI.

## CONTENTMENT.

" IF I dared write all I do feel and think,  
You would be satisfied."—What is the chain  
That binds thine eloquence to passion's brink ?  
O, cast it in the flood ! It cannot sink  
Upon that buoyant tide ; but there may rain  
Eternal freshness, from its floating pinions,  
Over my thirsty heart and feverish brain.  
Yet, words are but the fancy's airy minions,  
Bearing no substance in their picturings vague ;  
And I with air could not be satisfied,  
Which but contributes pestilence to plague :  
But when lips' speech mute lips have ratified,  
And our hearts' music is intensely blent,  
I'll lay me on thy lap, and cry—*Content !*

## XLVII.

## THE MANDATE.

O, MY sweet spirit ! to my sadness come ;  
Or, from the distant beauty of thy home,  
Send me some comfort ; for, indeed, my days  
In the deep longing for immortal praise  
Die mournfully : I tremble, sigh and weep ;  
And melancholy ghosts still haunt my sleep,  
Of men whose tortures were high aspirations ;  
From which I wake to spectral contemplations  
Of the dim future, and draw nothing thence  
But unconvincing, shadowy conclusions ;  
Nor can the present firmer thoughts dispense ;  
And the dead time recedeth in delusions.  
O, come ! come sweetly ; on my heart to lie,  
Balming its depths with thy dear charity !

## XLVIII.

## THE TEAR.

THERE is a sweet salt in thy kisses, Dear !  
That dwells upon the lips like ocean-foam  
Dropp'd from the whirling airs : what wandering tear  
Hath left the palace of its orb'd home ;  
Straying from crystal, over wan carnation,  
Unto thy rich mouth's curving almandine,  
Where half its dew is minister'd to mine  
In our fix'd greeting's balmy implication ?  
Be it the herald of a tempest-shower,  
Enclouded in the heaven of thy heart ;  
Or but a summer-drop, which the warm power  
Of love doth to the air of sighs impart ;  
Like a true Bacchant will I drink it up,  
Keeping my mad lips glued upon the cup !

## XLIX.

## THE FROZEN HEART.

WHAT frost o' the world hath thus congeal'd to ice  
 The once warm love-tide of my Lady's heart,  
 That now she stands upon decorum nice  
 And fences her true nature with false art ?  
 Some jealous one hath lied into her ear,  
 Accusing me of treason and deceit ;  
 And this her coldness is still-born of fear ?  
 Or, haply, my best words sound not so sweet  
 As when my lips, by hers made eloquent,  
 Sigh'd May-morn love about her, dew'd with gladness ;  
 For now I live with a less fond intent,  
 My life by death-thoughts being steep'd in sadness ?  
 Yet do I think that, with one favouring minute,  
 I could unfrost that heart, and bathe my passion in it !

L.

## THE DELUSION.

CAN Love's eye be deceived ? There's but one Sun  
In Heaven ; and he who when that Sun's away  
Still sees the Sun, is sure of sense bereaved !  
My Lady is afar : and as her own  
There's no such face of beauty i' the world ;  
Yet beams it near me, glorious as a star  
Triumphant on the forehead of the Dawn !  
Is it delusion, on my false eye drawn ?  
Or, like a spirit, is she omnipresent,  
Flattering the world with her ubiquity  
Whose presence even in absence I inherit ?  
I will not speak : it is ; and it is not !  
Mine eyes would cheat my heart into a folly ;  
And what exists not, to create they seek.

## LI.

## LOVE'S WINTER.

THE springtide and the budding and the dew  
 Of our sweet love soon past; but summerless  
 It went, and immatured; its buds, untrue,  
 Came not to flower or fruit of perfectness;  
 And the rich balm of its most vernal state  
 Hung frozen in a winter desolate:  
 So was its bursting freshness check'd and blighted;  
 And cold o'ercasts the sphere where we delighted  
 To prophesy of summer ecstasies,  
 Gathering our hopes from warm lips and fond eyes,  
 Clasp'd hands, and interchanged sympathies  
 That drew our hearts together. All is o'er!  
 To the Earth's frost come primaveral skies;  
 But to Love's winter spring returns no more.

## LII.

## BUD AND BLOSSOM.

My thoughts are with thee, Dear One !—Vale and hill  
Are shaded into slumber ; and the Night  
Seems gather'd in itself—it is so still !  
Darkness devours the clouds, in her broad flight  
From east to west ; and that most silent hour  
Which so to Heaven the guilty Spirit bringeth  
That from its depths an “ Alleluia ” springeth,  
Now fills grey Time's old glass, and with its power  
Lures me to love-dreams of thy babe and thee.  
I see her smiling on thy cradle-knee :  
Her lips from thy fond bosom just withdrawn ;  
And thine enamour'd eyes o'er her eyes bent  
(A bud and blossom in one sweetness blent !)  
Hailing thine own life in its second dawn.

## LIII.

## THE STARS OF SLEEP.

HER eyes have shone through all the blessed night,  
Deep-dwelling in my love-infixed soul ;  
That death-blind Sleep became a thing of sight,  
And bright flowers from the desert darkness stole.  
And as in Heaven's midnight solitude,  
When in her vapourous mantle Air reposeth,  
One silver planet, with the sun imbued,  
A joy-like light upon the gloom discloseth ;  
In the hush'd wilderness of clouded slumber,  
Those eyes, into my brain's oblivion peering,  
Unfolded visions which to name or number  
Were to unveil all secrets that should lie  
In the heart's Holy-of-Holies, not appearing  
To the base conscience of one vulgar eye.



## LIV.

HEART-REBELLION NEEDED AGAINST THE  
WORLD.

HOLD up thy head, Sweet Friend ! Be not cast down !  
What is 't to us whether men smile, or frown ?  
Upon each other's life and love we've built  
A regal tower, wherein our crown'd hearts dwell  
Upon one throne, all unassailable  
By the democracy of base Opinion !  
Be not self-humbled, Love ! Virtue and guilt  
Are words misunderstood. The World's dominion  
Is one stern tyranny o'er human hearts,  
Which they must strive against ; or ever lie  
In dungeons of great grief, where petty arts  
Of petty souls, whose grace is cruelty  
Worse than their hate, shall with a thousand stings  
Torture away sweet Life, and all the Love it brings !

## LV.

## THE TAINTED.

THE contact of base minds and their discourse  
Have tainted thy clear spirit, gentle Lady !  
And Common Being, with its sluggish force,  
Hath overgrown thy Purer Soul's existence ;  
As in the silence of a spring-bank shady  
A bramble hides a wild-flower : and the distance  
That ever lay between thee and the grossness  
Of the vain world and its self-drawn moroseness,  
Is lessening day by day, to my much sorrow.  
Yet, from one thought do I that comfort borrow  
Which holds me from despairing of thy soul :  
Clouds of the world on thy heart's clearness fall ;  
But wilful memories thou canst not controul,  
Of an untold delight, must keep thee spiritual.

## LVI.

## THE MISGIVING.

**THAT** such rich strains of powerful poesy,  
 Feeding, as feed they must, thy living sense  
 With sumptuous banquetings of memory,  
 Should not have call'd one word of feeling thence,  
 Of tongue, or pen, hath left me in amaze  
 At the inconstancy of fervent blood,  
 Which ebbs and flows like any moon-ruled flood,  
 And never runs full-channel for an hour !  
 Is it my sin, or others' flattering praise,  
 That hath divested of its urgent power  
 The Verse which once to drink and to devour  
 Thine eyes and heart were ever famishing ?—  
 Well ! I have other themes ; and many a string  
 To tune thereto, dear Churl !—Love is an idle thing.

## LVII.

## REMINISCENCES.

## 1.

THOU art not here, although I talk to thee,  
 Save in thy mystic presence in my heart :  
 Thou art not here, as thou didst vow to be ;  
 That cast I am on my creative art,  
 Thy beauty all about me to impart  
 And load the air with thy tongue's melody !  
 There is a mighty heaving of the Spring ;  
 And birds and flowers and leaves are homage paying  
 To Nature, in her young-love conquering  
 Of the iced blood of the Old Winter, playing  
 Himself to death in her fresh, sunny arms !  
 But, in thine absence, these song-luring charms  
 Cannot my sight to any fixure bring :  
 Mine eyes see thee alone—in vain imagining.

## 2.

As from my brain emerging, thou art here !  
O, Planet ! leapt from out a winter-cloud  
Which the winds strike and kill ! how summer-dear  
To my heart's long storm-shaken atmosphere  
Is thy dew-balmy light ! Now, Spring is proud !  
And thee in her and her in thee I view  
And hear, in all the heaven of sound and hue !  
O, God ! it is the trust and love within  
That give the glory to thy handiwork !  
Dear ! the World lies when, garrulous of Sin,  
Our lives from their best living it would irk :  
With thee to love, my Faith's sweet Origin !  
I worship God, and am a Spirit indeed ;  
Without thee, on the thorns of disbelief I bleed !

## LVIII.

## AN EXPOSITION.

How is it, in thine Absence, Dearest One !  
 That in so many features limn'd I see  
 Thy features' likeness ; but their like in none  
 When thy sweet Presence is glad life to me ?  
 'Tis thus why thus it is : When thou art vanish'd  
 From my love-dazed sight, the bright impression  
 Which there thy beauty makes, thence is not banish'd ;  
 But still upon mine orbs holds throned session,  
 And upon others' faces soft-reflected  
 Invests them with a lurement not their own ;  
 Making me covet that were else neglected  
 By Love which doth disloyalty disown !  
 But when thine aspect on mine eyes doth ride,  
 It shineth so, I'm blind to all beside.

## LIX.

## A N A G O N Y.

O, God ! the agony of Memory !  
 O, sweetness of the Past ! no more to be !  
 The same clear stream between the same green meads  
 Flows with the self-same voice ! O, that clear mirror !  
 Into whose depths of glory, Heaven's reflex,  
 We look'd with weeping eyes, that did not weep ;  
 But though our tears within their fountains deep  
 Were dam'd, our eyelids seem'd as sadly weeping.  
 All, all the same ! save season's difference.  
 But where, and what is she ? O, spectral terror !  
 That shows her of the Dead ! O, pang intense !  
 O, weavings of the brain and heart complex !  
 O, Life ! that only on its dead joy feeds !  
 O, God ! if Death should be a dreaming Sleeping ?

## LX.

## LOVE THAT CALCULATES.

Love is not love, that coldly calculates  
The chances of the fire on which it feeds :  
Whenever Passion reasons, it abates,  
And grows a miser of its liberal deeds.  
No niggard is a lover : she who swears  
To be forbearing in her heart's sweet alms,  
Dishonoureth the livery which she wears ;  
And breatheth a dull air, whose touch becalms  
The spirit on the deep of its great yearning,  
Or that part playeth which to Love's discerning  
Is seeming, merely—to be full-forgiven,  
Because that falsehood is of falsehood born ;  
And that the world hath on Love's forehead riven  
His crown of Truth, with its vile hand of scorn !



## LXI.

## LOVE'S ADMIRATION.

Love's Admiration is not loud, but deep ;  
By all it speaks not, known ; not all it speaketh :  
To outward eye it doth nor smile nor weep ;  
To outward ear is dumb, nor once outbreaketh  
In chorus with glad thousands clamouring  
In joy's too ostentatious triumphing :  
But, fathomless, within its own great heart,  
Intense delight unutterably seeketh  
Communion with its life-blood—smiles and tears  
And gratulation and sublime acclaim  
Felt, seen and heard !—a touch of ether-flame,  
Poetic vision and high songs o' the spheres !  
Love's Admiration is of Love a part ;  
And burns i' the sacred silence which endears.

## LXII.

## THE RIVALRY.

AN ! Sweet Creatrix of that World of Sound  
That vibrates on my ever-listening ear,  
And all my sense pervades with such profound  
And self-infusing power, that every vein  
And every nerve within my quivering frame  
Seem in true chorus to repeat again,  
Again, and yet again, the gushings clear,  
Flowing and pulsing, of its harmony !  
The heavenly might of thine enchanted fingers  
Hath nowhere its true like, or rivalry ;  
Save on those lips of thine, when dewy flame,  
Ascending from the heart, upon them lingers ;  
And, drawn into my soul with thy warm breath,  
Melts all the heart of life to liquid death !

## LXIII.

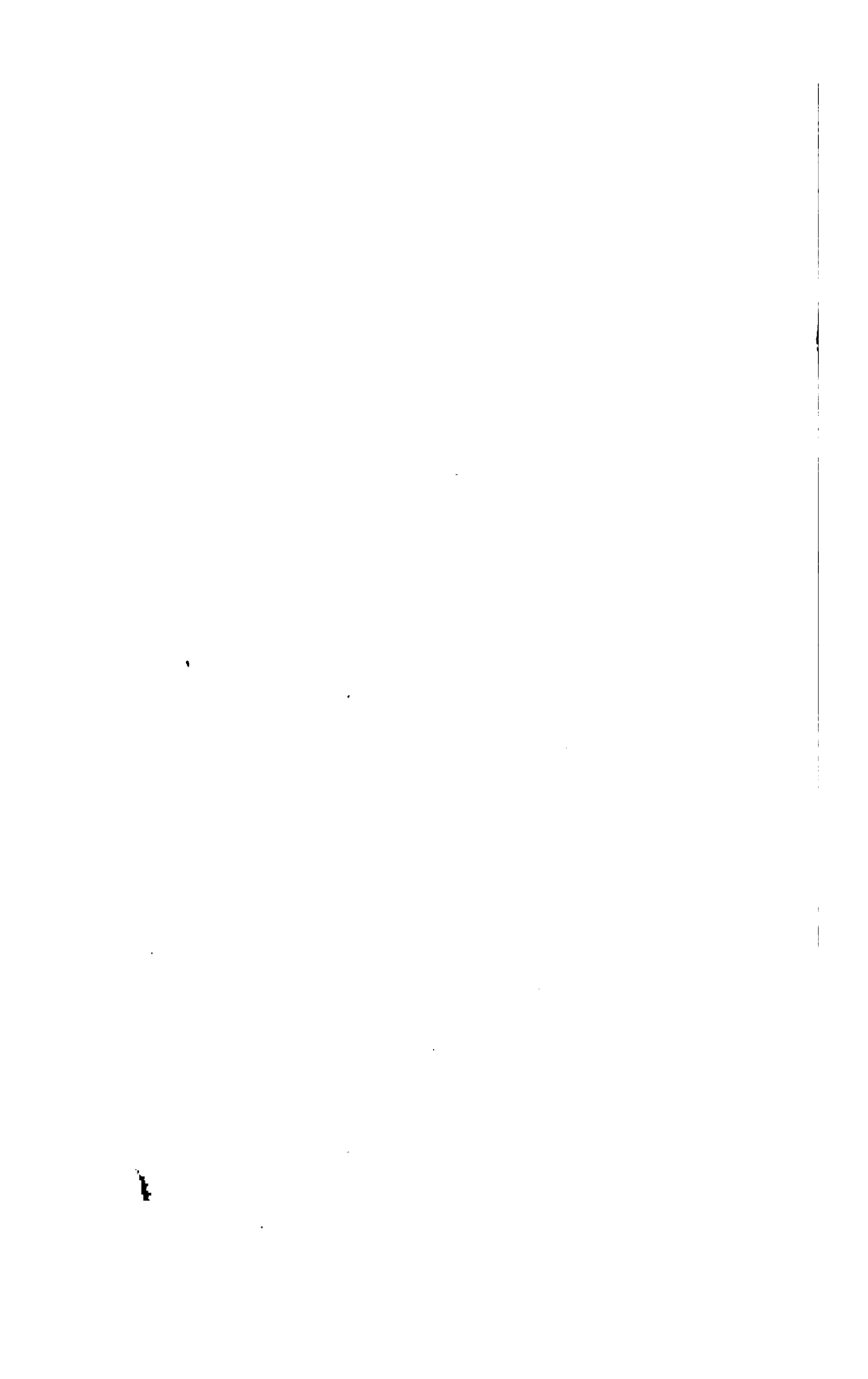
## "THE CHORD-OF-THE-DOMINANT."

" ' O, do !' and ' Will you not ?' and such sweet phrases,  
 So utter'd, strike a chord of my rapt soul,  
 Which, like the chord-o'-the-dominant, must be  
 At once resolved into firm repose ;  
 Or else it pants and writhes through all the mazes  
 Of violated music painfully,  
 And no calm rest of consummation knows  
 In haven of contented harmony.  
 O, cunning of a master-hand control !—  
 ' O, do !' and ' Will you not ?' make perfect tune  
 In me, of love thy breathing instrument ;  
 The music of thy playing eloquent !  
 The stricken with the striker doth agree,  
 And all the intricate notes into each other swoon !"

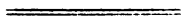
## LXIV.

## A MOTHER TO HER NEW-BORN CHILD.

“ SWEET cry ! as sacred as the blessed Hymn  
Sung at Christ’s birth by joyful Seraphim !  
Exhausted nigh to death by that dread pain,  
That voice salutes me to dear life again.  
Ah, God !—my Child ! my first, my living Child !  
I have been dreaming of a thing like thee  
Ere since, a babe, upon the mountains wild,  
I nursed my mimic babe upon my knee.  
In girlhood I had visions of thee ; love  
Came to my riper youth, and still I clove  
Unto thine image, born within my brain ;  
So like !—as even there thy germ had lain !—  
My blood ! my voice ! my thought ! my dream achieved !—  
O, till this double life, I have not lived !”



# TEMPORALIA.



POEMS AND SONNETS.



## I.

## THE THREE GREAT DAYS.

TO THE FRENCH.

(WRITTEN IN AUGUST, 1830.)

## 1.

HIGH Pharos of the Nations! Helice  
 Of those that navigate the unslumbering sea  
     Whose billows waft, through tempest and through terror,  
 Unto the golden shores of Liberty!  
 Your beacon and your star again are burning;  
     A guide to enterprise, a sign to error;  
 And those Saturnian times, anew returning,  
     Life's antique heart make strong and young  
     As Hebe's when from Air she sprung!  
 The Kingdoms gaze on ye, and pant for breath;  
     Grey Superstition trembles;  
 Old Tyranny is gloating on his death;  
     And the world's hope resembles  
 The dark sky's, when the free wind speaks aloud,  
 And constellations leap from every cloud!



## 2.

Ye have been hiving wisdom from the Past :  
 Your freedom's harvest old was overcast  
     By showers that deluged it with freedom's blood ;  
 But from that gory feast this afterpast  
 Of holy joy and temperate revel cometh ;  
     The plenty, not repletion, of whose food  
 Gives to pale Liberty the health that bloometh.  
     Your deeds unto the kindling Nations  
     Shall be, as solemn inspirations  
 Unto the Poet's and the Prophet's heart !  
     Ye have erased the stains  
 Ye and your sires did to her cause impart ;  
     And now alone remains  
 The glory of her beauty undefiled,  
 To shame the dotards that too long reviled.

## 3.

Like strong Tirynthus, ye but ascended  
 The burning pile your madness had upbended—  
     And died on Liberty's Nemæan pillow !  
 To rise again, with vision more extended,  
 And commune closely with the powers of Heaven.  
     Now, now, the impulse to that thundering billow

Whose foam shall strike the Nations, hath been given !

'Tis salt upon the lips of Spain ;

The Lusian drinks the glorious rain ;

The Islands and the Ghost of buried Rome

Feel their locks wet withal :

Its echoes fill the everlasting dome ;

And rock to rock doth call

Of living heart, with an awaken'd mirth—

'Tis ye have struck this spirit from the Earth !

## 4.

America and England, each to other,

Greet the regeneration of a brother ;

For the Isle's King, as yours, is Freedom's guard !  
And o'er the wave salute they one another :—

“ We are our people's Chief, but not their Master ;

“ We rule in love, and love is our reward !”

The cement of your strength is past disaster :

The freedom ye have dearly earn'd

Shall not again be overturn'd

By democrat's blood-quaffing violence :

If Anarchy arise,

Whose rage would blind the sacred innocence  
     That beams in Freedom's eyes,  
 With tears of gore, excite her infant strength  
 To stretch the writhed snake at innocuous length !

## 5.

O, holy Battailers in that contention,  
 Of Myriads to strike down the Few's pretension,  
     Which still hath been the birthdom of the world !  
 Ye have wrought bravely for the bright extension  
 Of each man's influence in his own behoof :  
     And Right's proud banner shall no more be furl'd  
 As heretofore ; but underneath the roof  
     Of million-tinted air and heaven,  
     With suns and planets densely paven  
 Whose aspect prompteth Liberty's strong panting,  
     It shall wave high for ever !  
 Her seeds of amaranth Great Mind is planting,  
     With infinite endeavour,  
 Thick in the human heart's unfathom'd soil ;  
 Whose blooms no solemn drones hereafter shall despoil !

## 6.

Your triumph in this Verse be high-recorded !  
 The tottering Despot's scabbard was unsworded,

To strike at Liberty's uplifted arm ;  
 And some few tyrant slaves their aid afforded  
 To wield the weapon that must crush the striker,  
 Turn'd on himself by her repelling charm.  
 He smote : ye rose indignantly ; and, liker  
     To storm and earthquake than to mortal  
     In rapid power, from her arm'd portal  
 Struck mail'd Oppression, with one gush of blood !  
     Who are the mighty now ?  
 The Bourbon stoops, a mendicant for food !  
     Upon his uncrown'd brow  
 Sit thoughts of curses from his desolate heirs ;  
 Whilst bitter scorn laughs loud in the supervolant airs.

## 7.

The thunder of your great deliverance roll'd  
 Over the hills of Fame : she heard and told,  
     The lightning of her spirit round her flashing,  
 Of feminine limbs and babes, as manhood bold,  
 Wearing the armour of your retribution ;  
     The base male recreants of the earth abashing :  
 And stripling boyhood framing the confusion  
     Of rage, just bursting wrong's old border,  
     Into sublime, consummate order :  
 Of cruelty and wrath and selfishness  
     To depths Avernall vanish'd ;

And perfect Freedom, folded in the tress  
     Of Love ; and Memory banish'd  
 From a griev'd Nation's heart, save that sufficient  
 To sceptre Wisdom on her throne omniscient.

## 8.

As sunbeams play above the heated shingle,  
 The rays of Freedom glowingly did tingle  
     Over your shores, with swift, tremescent motion,  
 And in a blaze of light electric mingle !  
 One mighty waste of wild and writhing foam—  
     An agony of tempest—was your ocean :  
 Until its sullen barriers, overcome,  
     Left it to flow in gentle state ;  
     And none could deem a storm so late  
 Had cleft it to its undermost foundations !  
     Ye have enforced the world  
 Into a labyrinth of contemplations ;  
     Which soon, unintertwirl'd,  
 Must open to the light of human glory ;  
 When Earth shall gaze on Life from Freedom's promontory.

## 9.

Succeed to farms legitimate dullards may  
 As long as clods are clods ; but not to sway

And privileges over nobler spirits :  
 That fashion from the world shall die away ;  
 And ye have set the signet to that fiat !  
 The lessons ye have taught old Time inherits,  
 To wean the Future from subjection's quiet.  
     As the wing'd wind unto the sea,  
     To Mind shall your example be ;  
 Urging on high the waters of her splendour,  
     Whose tempest Love assuages ;  
 But to whose curbed force must slow surrender  
     The tyranny of ages  
 Enrock'd around them : Despots stand aghast  
 In their high towers, which shake in Freedom's thunderblast !

## 10.

A solemn voice is heard immurmurate  
 From the oppressed Lands Peninsulate,  
     Caught from the tempest of your exultation !  
 The heart of Europe beats in high debate  
 In the full senate-house of Liberty ;  
     And to your eloquent lip breathes confirmation  
 Which, pass'd some brooding years, shall burst on high !  
     The American hath kindled long  
     Pure fires upon her altars strong ;

The Asian and the Afric hear her pinions

Striking the air afar,

And view her deep eye fix'd on their dominions—

A clear, though distant, star !

That full orb from Life's World all darkness shall disperse ;

Those gorgeous plumes enfold our Human Universe !

## II.

## F R A N C E.

THE 27TH, 28TH AND 29TH OF JULY, 1830.

FRANCE, from intemperate waking, fell asleep ;  
And mortal demons did oppress her slumber  
With chains, from which she could not disencumber  
Her numb'd and feverish limbs : they still did keep  
Their heavy hands upon her troubled heart ;  
And as she shrank beneath them, twisted tighter  
The bands that fetter'd her gigantic members ;  
Till, shrieking, from her drunken trance she woke !  
Howling, the demons of her slumber fled ; she broke  
Their iron chains like threads ; the holy embers  
Upon her freedom's hearth rekindled brighter,  
And played again an unforgotten part.  
Be taught, O, Kings ! Millions before the One !  
Time from great knowledge hath great wisdom won.



## III.

## " REFORM-BILL " HYMNS.

## 1.

## THE " NEWSPAPER. "

It goeth forth, an instrument of power,  
 Ruling and ruled by Great Society ;  
 Noting the human business of the hour,  
 With retrospection far, and prophecy ;  
 Showing the world the world, and to the tide  
 Of Time its own vast flowings—self-supplied !

A wondrous and a mighty Thing it is,  
 Speaking to distant millions as to near ;  
 Rousing all passions and all sympathies,  
 And forcing the earth's space to disappear  
 By its connecting course o'er all the lands,  
 Which makes the globe's antipodes shake hands !

Before its all-detecting, all-proclaiming  
 And all-truth-telling voice, the Tyrant's throne  
 And the bald Bigot's altar, heavenward flaming  
 With fires derived from hell, quiver and groan ;

For it is clothed in liberty and light,  
And casts destroying sun-shafts through their night !

Hail it, ye stirring Millions ! as your Saver  
From the Old Law of Things, that kept ye under  
The foot-tread of the Few—as the way-paver  
To your redemption-goal ! And, of its thunder  
Ye who sit throned the Joves invisible,  
Use the mighty weapon well !  
Hide it not in cloudy sphere  
Of pale apathy, or fear ;  
But, ever let its radiant bolts be hurl'd  
Against the Giant Ills that still bestride the World !

## 2.

## A SONG OF THE PEOPLE.

THE Hoary Dotard, Aristocracy,  
Shakes in his crumbling palace-halls ; for, hark !  
On the broad Ocean of Democracy  
Floats Liberty, prepared to disembark  
On her predestin'd strand,  
This English land !

In glory, o'er a world of tribulation,

She raiseth her bright banner—as the Sun  
O'er clouds and storms ascendeth burningly—  
And, with a loud and multitudinous voice,  
The millions of the congregated Nation

(Myriad-lipp'd ; but its great hearts as one !)

Rejoice !

They fear ! The Few who on our lives have fed—  
The Trampers on the Many—turn in dread !  
And we, the mighty People, to regain  
Our stolen birthright have not wrought in vain—  
We live ! we live, again !

Still bloodless be the sword we draw,  
To make our lawful wills the law  
O'er dull Convention, Tyranny and Wrong,  
Made by the Ignorance of Ages strong !  
No gory weapon will we deign to wield,  
Drenching with brother-blood our brother's field ;  
Dungeons and chains, death-blocks and torturings  
Shall vanish from the world with Slaves and Kings :  
We fight to conquer and convert our Foes ;  
Not use them bloodily ! From Freedom flows  
Nor human tears, nor human gore :  
With spiritual weapons for things spiritual

The living Many battle, as of yore  
 Did here and there some solitary Sage,  
 The one soul-beacon of his mindless Age !  
     For Knowledge now on myriad wings  
     From the Press, self-plumed, springs  
         And floats around us all !  
     We have not striven in vain  
     Against the tyrant-chain !  
 They fear ! The Few who on our lives have fed—  
 The Trampers on the Many—turn in dread !  
         We live ! we live, again !

## 3.

## TO THE PEERS.

SOME golden bubbles, in the unquiet air  
 (Creations of a Childish Fantasy !)  
 Floating, I saw : lo ! bare arms muscular  
 Approach'd them ; and two hands—like Destiny  
 Crushing old worlds—destroy'd them utterly.  
 Slight sun-hatch'd creatures, in the calmness veering  
 Which did precede the storm, as though their fans  
 Of down were eagle-pinions, nothing fearing

The assured coming of the hurricanes,  
 I saw, and pitied for their vain careering :  
 The mighty winds came on, and mightier storms,  
 And whirl'd into the dust their insect-forms.  
 Bubbles and butterflies of men !—Ye Peers !—  
 Make for yourselves a safety in your fears !

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## 4.

## TO THE COMMONS, AT THEIR SQUABBLES.

WHAT is 't ye do, Dull Spiders ! darkly weaving  
 The web of your poor passions in the corners  
 Of your old Chamber, for the vile deceiving  
 Of idle fools, making the wise your scorners ;  
 When all your words should be as songs of day  
 From bees and birds, all-cheering and intense  
 With peaceful power and thrilling influence  
 Over the list'ning world ? Unto the Mass  
 Who toil with head or hand, what boot the feuds  
 That furnish gabble to your heated moods,  
 When truth runs o'er with wine, and shows ye—liars !  
 We must have answer to our great desires  
 For Social Progress ; or we force the way,  
 And o'er ye, as a mighty whirlwind, pass !

## 5.

## TO THE HIERARCHY.

THOU hast not built thy house upon the rock  
 Of CHRIST and his GOOD-TIDINGS, thou proud Thing,  
 Self-baptized with the name of "Hierarchy" !  
 But on the sand of this world's vanishing ;  
 Wherefore, it shall not brave the coming shock  
 Of Truth and Knowledge, in their flowings high  
 Up the vast banks of Time ; but, undermined,  
 Must shake, and great shall be the fall thereof.  
 Thy title is usurp'd, swollen Hierarchy !  
 " Chief of the Sacred" art thou not ; for, know  
 That not with Mammon and his rust, below,  
 Abideth Sacredness, whose mansion-roof  
 Archeth the Universe !—O, Base-of-Mind !  
 Thou in the CHURCH of CHRIST hast dug a gluttonous sty.

## 6.

## TO MY COUNTRY.

ENGLAND ! that in thy confidence of power  
 Dost lie like guarded sleep—keep wide thine eyes !

Time on his grey wing bears a whirlwind hour,  
That shall make chaff of all thy vanities :  
But of that scattering, whether smiles or sighs  
Shall be the issue, doth depend on thee—  
Awake, old Country ! from thine apathy ;  
And, gentle Mother ! make thine Offspring blest  
With more of equal plenty and sweet rest  
Than is their dowry now, that they may feel  
A filial heart-beat for their Parent's weal :  
Let not a few wax gross with luxury,  
Whilst thousands famish on one scanty meal—  
Old Parent, wake ! and hear thy Children's cry.

IV.

THE BIRD AND CHILD.

1.

A LADY with an eye most mild  
 And lips as beautiful as closing flowers  
 Was the young mother of a child  
 Whose prattle made the pastime of her hours.

2.

She in a cottage dwelt, whose thatch  
 Was oft the perch of a melodious bird,  
 Which seem'd that infant's glee to watch,  
 And piped sweet songs whene'er its voice was heard.

3.

Death touch'd the child, that it was dying,  
 And by it the pale mother moaning lay ;  
 And the bird ever had been flying  
 Around the thatch, but voiceless all the day.



## 4.

And when the gentle infant died,

Ere scarce the breath from its blue lips was gone,

The bird trill'd one brief song in pride—

Flew far, and never to return was known.

## 5.

The mother sorrow'd, and went mad—

And often in her phrensy this would say :—

“ It is the bird that makes me sad,

“ For with my sweet child's soul it flew away.”

V.

A S O N G.

1.

A LADY put to sea,  
Nor thought of wind and tide ;  
But soon dismay'd was she—  
And, “ bear me back !” she cried.

2.

Another (or the same)  
Took boat in a balloon ;  
But when to a cloud she came,  
Must needs with terror swoon.

3.

And whether these fair voyagers  
Arrived at worlds unknown ;  
Or got back safe to land, the dears !  
I cannot tell, I own.

## 4.

But 'tis most like they perish'd  
In the dread depths which they braved,  
With thoughts for all they cherish'd,  
Or would—had they been saved.

## 5.

O, Ladies ! never trust  
To water, or to air ;  
Where swim, or sink, ye must,  
And go—the gods know where !

## VI.

## C A L V U S.\*

BALD Mortal! thou dost ape the Skeleton  
 That satirizes man and all his doings,  
 From every open'd grave; and shouldst seem one,  
 But for the glow-worm which is in thine eyes,  
 And certain airs that from thy lips arise.  
 Why, now to see thee at thine amorous cooings,

---

\* The above Sonnet having been put into the hands of Mr. LEIGH HUNT, at the period of his editorship of "*The Tatler*" (a journal which conferred a new grace upon its adopted name) he did it the honour to accompany it in that publication with the following jocular (?) "Answer," under the appropriate signature of "Calviultor":—

" I've got my wig :—and now, thou rash Hirsutus,  
 Crinitus, Whiskerandos, Ogre, Bear,  
 Or whatsoever title please thine hair,  
 Why vex the bald? Why loveless thus repute us?  
 Sweet Shakspeare, *omni nectare imbutus*,  
 Was bald; and he, the wise beyond compare,  
 Socrates, teacher of the young and fair;  
 And Cæsar, victim of a *natural* Brutus!  
 Fresh is the bald man's head; for love so apt,  
 That England's gallants, in her wittiest time,  
 In voluntary baldness, velvet-capp'd,  
 Through reams of letters urged their amorous rhyme:  
 Then issued forth, peruked; and o'er their shoulders  
 From ev'ry curl shook loves at all the fair beholders."

Or gravely preaching Immortality,  
To which thy living death's-head gives the lie,  
Would make the Shadow that all Life receiveth  
Shake his dim sides with horrible derision.  
Tell us, old Calvus ! what about thee cleaveth,  
To make distinction still between the vision  
Of a death's-head and thine ? Get thee false hair,  
For thy sole privilege to upper air !

## VII.

## TO A MALIGNANT PERSON.

Poor rogue ! I pity thee ; but do not blame :  
The spirit which is in us must have scope ;  
The toad must spit its venom—thou the same !  
The hangman were a jest without his rope ;  
And thou without thy spleen were a disdain  
To the recoiling world. I should as soon,  
Having my reason clear, vent angry thought  
On flies, for stinging in the summer-noon,  
Flesh vexing with the pettiness of pain ;  
On worms, for living in the dirt and crawling ;  
On swine, for wallowing in the mire ; on aught  
Most foul of all things filthy, for appalling  
The delicate nostril's sense, as blame on thee,  
For glutting thy soul's life—thy deep malignity !

## VIII.

## THE PHAETONS OF KNOWLEDGE.

STILL, still they prate ! and common-place opinion  
Utter on themes abstruse, whose comprehension  
Hath long defied the mightiest dominion  
Of the great minds of Earth, to whose dimension  
Theirs are as bats to eagles !—Get ye home !  
Search all the lore o' the past ; and then, walk forth,  
And air your damp wits by the Ocean-foam !  
Study from east to west, from south to north,  
And tell us to what end your labours come !  
Phaetons of Knowledge ! ye the reins essay  
As if ye were indeed fit charioteers  
To guide her wheels of glory through the spheres !  
Refrain !—Eat, love, and die ! or sport, or pray !  
But with your shadows pave not Thought's bright way !

## IX.

## “ P U B L I S H I N G . ”

O, DULL mechanic means!—the only means—  
 Since Minstrel-harp and chant have pass'd away,  
 And we are fall'n on other modes and scenes—  
 By which to current make the Poet's lay!  
 O, that the godly human utterance  
 Of centred thought and interchanged feeling  
 Might the great Music of the Spheres enhance;  
 And, in the Vast of Space for ever pealing,  
 Go sounding onward through the Universe!  
 For, then; though deaf as now the Mortal Millions  
 To all the mystic harmonies of Verse;  
 The Stars and Birds, in their serene pavilions,  
 And all sweet things that heavenly music make,  
 Would listen—for their Fellow-Singers' sake!

F I N I S.



LONDON :

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